





FIFTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

1867.



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1867.



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CITY OF BOSTON.

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*In Board of Aldermen, November 25, 1867.*

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Attest :

S. F. McCLEARY, *City Clerk.*



CITY OF BOSTON.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY, BOSTON, November 21, 1867.

*His Honor Otis Norcross, Mayor of the City of Boston :*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, prepared in obedience to the fourth section of the Ordinance relative to the Public Library, passed on the 20th of October, 1863.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES C. JEWETT,  
*Secretary of the Board of Trustees.*





# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

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In obedience to the requisitions of an Ordinance concerning the Public Library, passed October 20th, 1863, the Trustees have the honor to submit to the City Council their Fifteenth Annual

### REPORT:

The activity noticed in the last Annual Report, in all branches of the library service, has continued without intermission during the present year. The amount of labor performed has increased, and the difficult task of insuring that each department should fully meet the demands made upon it, so that none of the interests of the institution should suffer to the inconvenience of the public, or to the detriment of its own operations, has, so far as practicable, been performed. The year of which we have now to make report necessarily includes six months of the term of our predecessors in office, and comprises the record of a new organization of the Board by the City Council, as well as of the important changes made by the present Trustees in the economy of the Library.

Of the large class of facts relative to the institution in which the City Council and the community have a direct interest, a full narration is given in the Report of the Examining Committee accompanying this Report. This Committee, appointed under the sixth section of the Ordinance, consists of five citizens at

large, with a member of the Board of Trustees as Chairman. The Committee for the present year are Alfonso Bowman, Esq., C. W. Freeland, Esq., C. D. Homans, M. D., Herman J. Warner, Esq., and Rev. R. C. Waterston, with Justin Winsor, Esq., as Chairman. Their Report (Document A) will be found to contain ampler statistics of the circulation and use of the books and periodicals than have hitherto been in the possession of the institution. These statistics have been derived from the new system of circulation, from which such large results were hoped at the time of the last Annual Report. The various recommendations of the Committee deserve the careful attention of the City Council, and will hereafter be made the subject of examination on the part of the Trustees.

The Report of the Superintendent (Document B) is also appended. Like the document of the Examining Committee, it will be found full of figures and facts to indicate the uses of the books and periodicals. It likewise fulfils the requirements of the third section of the Ordinance, that there should be made known to the City Council, annually, "the condition of the Library, the number of books that have been added during the past year, with an account of its receipts and expenditures." The tables, classifying the books of the Lower Hall, giving the number of duplicates upon its shelves, and showing the wear of this department of the Library during nine years, will be found important by all persons interested in lending libraries.

On the 31st December, 1866, an Ordinance was passed by the City Council, increasing the number of the Trustees, and changing their tenure of office. It doubled the representation from the Common Council, and added one to those selected from the citizens at large, making a new Board to consist of nine instead of seven members. It also arranged, in conformity with the management of other city institutions, that the citizens elected at large should serve for a term of three years, two being chosen each year. This measure was evidently designed to give permanency and character to the Board, and to secure the services

of competent and reliable men in the administration of this great trust. It is, indeed, possible under the Ordinance, to elect five new members in the Board each year — but this probably was not the intention of the City Council.

It will be remembered, that for several years great difficulty had arisen in consequence of the want of power on the part of the Trustees to punish individuals abusing or destroying the property of the Library. To meet this emergency, the Legislature passed at its last session a general "Act for the Preservation of Books and other Property belonging to Public Libraries." The penalties under this law are sufficiently severe. No prosecutions under it have yet been necessary, and none may be necessary; but it is of the last importance to every public library that its guardians should have authority sufficient to protect the property placed in their charge for safe keeping.

The causes which led to the new registration of the persons using the Library, are stated at length in the Report of the Examining Committee and of the Superintendent. It is only proper to add here that the measure was adopted upon the unanimous vote of the Board, after careful deliberation. Already a large number of persons have registered, and we have yet to learn of any one deserving and entitled to the use of the Library, who has been excluded thereby from its privileges. If there be any deserving persons, who have no friends or acquaintances, and yet are desirous to use the books or Reading Room, let them promptly make known their necessities to the Trustees. As the Library is intended for the freest use of the greatest number of people, who ought to use it, it is obvious that more books can be circulated, if they are so protected as to go only into the hands of those who will take care of them, and return them at the proper time to the Library.

It has not been expected by the Trustees that a new registration, including a system of reference, would relieve the Library from all losses. Immunity from loss can only result from actual security given, either from the names of responsible persons

agreeing to make good possible loss, or from the actual money deposit of the value of the book loaned. But it may fairly be concluded that any system which will tend to exclude notoriously dishonest people from the Library, will diminish the number of books lost or stolen. Since the opening of the Lower Hall, over 6000 books have disappeared from the shelves, either lost, stolen, or worn out. It is probable that more than one-half of these were worn out, but the proportion absolutely lost through the unfaithfulness of borrowers, it is now impossible to fix: hereafter it will be exactly known.

During the year new editions of the "By-Laws relative to the Trustees and Officers of the Library," and of the "Rules and Regulations for the use of the Public Library," have been printed. In the first of these, such alterations were made as would adapt it to the newly enlarged Board. The number of Standing Committees has been increased, the duties of all more exactly specified, and changes arranged in the work committed to the charge of the various principal officers of the institution. This has been done with a view so to distribute labors and responsibilities as to meet all the demands upon the library service, and to render, so far as practicable, the details of administration harmonious and complete.

Only one important alteration in the Rules and Regulations needs notice here. The Trustees, after observation of the frequenters of the Library, desirous that its benefits should be extended as widely as possible, diminished by two years the limits of the ages of admission to the Reading Room and to the uses of the Library. The results, so far, have justified the change. A large class of readers has been added, and of an age when a good book makes a more lasting and decided impression than upon maturer minds. A book remaining unused and idle upon the shelf does not fulfil the purpose for which it was produced, and the largest use consistent with the safety of the property must be the steady aim in any successful management of a great public library.

Grateful mention is made in the Report of the Superintendent,

of the various benefactions to the institution. Among these, special notice should be given to the busts of Mr. Everett by Thomas Ball, presented by the subscribers to the Everett statue, and to that of Mr. Motley, by Richard S. Greenough, due to the generosity of Mr. Thomas B. Curtis. The increasing number of works of art in the library, has had recent attention from the Trustees. No provision was originally made in the library building for their preservation or exhibition. The room now used for their temporary deposit is utterly unsuited for the purpose; and in the changes consequent upon any future extension or alteration of the present edifice, it is hoped that such arrangements will be made, as may secure an appropriate position for the statuary and paintings now in our possession, and shall insure to future benefactors of works of art the conditions which shall enable the student to proceed from the text-books on the shelves of the library to galleries illustrating their contents, by specimens of the best works of modern painters and sculptors.

Among the conveniences added to the library during the year, the Indicator deserves the principal place. It appears to have been instantly understood and appreciated by the borrowers of our books, and has diminished, in a very marked degree, the time of waiting in the distributing-room. Securing comparative rapidity of delivery, it lessens confusion at the hours of the greatest demand for books.

Of the other new arrangements to facilitate the use of the books by the public, the most important is the publication of the "Bulletin," of which one number has been issued, and with marked success. The work owes its origin to the suggestions of the Examining Committee of last year, who felt the importance of a readier communication with readers than the ordinary processes of printing Catalogues and Finding Lists would permit. One can hereafter procure, within a reasonable time, and at a trifling expense, a list of all the new books added to both halls of the Library, and the natural desire to obtain

the last works upon any given subject will be readily gratified.

Since the first opening of the Public Library, and the publication of the early reports, indicating to the public the principles upon which it would be managed, it has gradually grown in the general estimation. The hitherto untried experiment of opening its doors wide to all inhabitants of the city, with the fewest possible limitations and safeguards, during fifteen years has had a thorough trial. The percentage of losses has been small as compared with the whole number of books circulated. It has been the aim of the present Board still further to extend the privileges of the institution, due reference being had to the certain return of the books loaned. It is, in their judgment, a mistake to suppose that the increasing number of books lost was of insufficient consequence, and that no restrictions were necessary to prevent further losses. The very fact of immunity to one unfaithful borrower tempts others to a like dishonesty. To set such a snare before the young and thoughtless would be highly unjustifiable.

In conclusion, the Trustees take leave to commend the Library anew to the City Government, to whose continuous bounty and favor it has been so largely indebted. It is now, we suppose, in size the second institution of the kind in the country, and, if its past prosperity shall continue, may ere long be the first. To arrive at this result, it must keep pace with the wants of the community, and be administered for its benefit.

WM. W. GREENOUGH,  
J. P. BIGELOW,  
NATH'L B. SHURTLEFF,  
WINSLOW LEWIS,  
JUSTIN WINSOR,  
E. P. WHIPPLE,  
THOMAS GAFFIELD,  
WESTON LEWIS,  
JEREMIAH L. NEWTON.

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## REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

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The Examining Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Public Library for the year 1867, ask leave to

### REPORT.

They directed their attention to the

#### I. BUILDING,

and learned that its history shows the usual experience with public edifices, of inconveniences discovered in use that had not been anticipated in the accepted plans. It was a condition of Mr. Bates's original gift that the building should be an architectural ornament to the city — a provision which Mr. Everett, two years before in a letter to the Mayor, had feared might yet be interposed, while in his opinion the attempt at architectural display would end in failure. Mr. Bates's condition — whatever we may think of the way in which it was met — did not of course forbid any of the requirements of fitness, and Mr. Winthrop, who made the address at the laying of the cornerstone, believed that the building, when completed, would be found to have few edifices of a like character, to equal it in practical appropriateness and convenience; and the Trustees at that time reported that it would compare favorably with any public build-

ing in the world for position, convenience and adaptation. When the Library was dedicated, it was suggested that no disappointment should be felt, if the building should be found deficient in some details, and that it would not be surprising if alterations might finally become necessary. It is not strange, perhaps, that the Commissioners, in their joint capacity, did not successfully guard against any such future development, since libraries are various in character, and have produced diverse experiences, while those who have made their construction a study are not at all agreed upon the prime necessities of their plan. Besides, a free circulating library like this, and of its destined magnitude, did not exist, whence the tests of actual trial could be drawn. After the building had been occupied three or four years, we began to hear complaints of its construction from the Examining Committees, supported by those, who were deriving from the management of the institution, a practical insight into its defects.

WHAT ARE ITS MAIN DEFECTS? A want of light in some of the alcoves of the Bates Hall, of ventilation in the lower story, and the absence of working-rooms. Moreover, a mistake had been made in the height of the alcoves, since movable steps are required to reach the higher shelves,—a fault too late, probably, now to remedy.

In the matter of *light*, the defect is often very inconvenient. The needless fluting of the exterior walls, devised to afford light to the Lower Hall, and which has not proved of use, both enhanced the cost of the edifice, and deprived the Bates Hall of valuable room. To reconstruct the walls now, so as to make a straight line, would, we are informed, cost an amount that it is hardly desirable to expend in view of the future, if not immediate necessity, of an additional building in the rear. It is practicable, perhaps, to cut through long, narrow loopholes in the outermost parts of the wall, in the two lower ranges of alcoves (the



upper range being light enough) and the expense might not be disproportioned to the benefit.

In regard to *ventilation*, your Committee found the atmosphere of the lower Delivery Room invariably very bad, and that of the Reading Room not so good as it should be, when many are occupying it, particularly in the evening, when the gas is burning. The matter, we learned, had often been investigated without any satisfactory result. The only effectual remedy in the Delivery Room would seem to be the removal of its present false-ceiling, and even this might not be sufficient without some contrivance for facilitating the draught in the flues. It is possible some artificial appliance for this end may work relief in the Reading Room.

The need of *working accommodations* seems to your Committee to be seriously felt, and the arguments for special rooms, in our opinion, outweigh those in favor of using the galleries and alcoves, as is now the case, for work which, it seems to us, requires greater room and more fitting conveniences, to insure facility and accuracy. All the labor upon the newly-received books—the collating, the varied cataloguing, and other work of preparing them for the shelves—is at present done in so narrow a space that two persons can barely pass beside the tables; and the room is very insufficient for assorting the books, as may be necessary, in making proper classifications. The crowded condition of this part of the gallery causes more or less confusion, and the neighboring shelves of books are exposed to an increase of dust. In the alcoves where binding and repairing to bindings have been done since 1863, these last considerations seem more valid, while the workmen are necessarily put to some inconvenience in timing the noisy parts of their trade to intervals when the hall is free from readers.

The large collection of *pamphlets* is kept in a low and dark apartment over the Delivery Room, and their assortment and examination requires light as well as space. If the ceiling of

the Delivery Room, which makes the floor of this apartment, is removed, accommodations will have to be provided for this collection elsewhere.

A small room in one of the rear towers is now devoted to the *British Patent Specifications and Reports*, and its shelves can receive but a few volumes more of a collection, which, through the liberality of the British Government, is constantly growing. It is probable that space must be gained by some temporary expedient, before another room could be furnished, even if an enlargement of the present building be deemed desirable.

The *records* of the institution in volumes and slips have now reached an inconvenient bulk, if no regular place of deposit is provided for them. At present they are necessarily disposed in various corners and spaces, and a suitable room for their regular arrangement is to be desired.

The collection of the *Fine Arts* now small, is well begun, and the time cannot be far distant, when the hall at present devoted to their reception will be wholly inadequate.

The *Reading Room* at times is filled in every part, and might well, even now, be enlarged.

The assistant, who has charge of the *monetary accounts*, is at present only provided for in a much frequented passage-way, with extemporized conveniences for the work.

There is no apartment at present furnished for the keeping and showing of *maps* and large sheets of *plans or engravings*.

Some of the higher range of alcoves in the Bates Hall are now used for storing *sale-duplicates* of books and pamphlets; but the increase of the Library is gaining upon those alcoves, and some place of deposit, not now in view, should be made ready for them, since a large library, receiving donations, must always be burdened with such duplicates.

In the matter of *shelving*, a cursory examination of the Library might seem to show that sufficient room existed for the accumulations of several years to come. The building was calculated

to hold about 200,000 volumes in the Bates and 40,000 in the Lower Hall, and it now contains about 136,000 volumes in both, exclusive of some 35,000 pamphlets. But the measure of further accommodation in the Bates Hall is not wholly determined by a difference of some 80,000 or 90,000 volumes. Every large library, to be useful, must be classified, and the classifications must be preserved locally with some degree of distinctness. Hence it is very undesirable to allow the overflowings of one department to encroach on the neighboring one, which is sure in time to eject the intruders, and cause much confusion in the catalogues. Accordingly, though the shelves of the Bates Hall will still accommodate a large accession of volumes, not many thousands more can be received without departing locally from the classifications so needful to make a library useful. Already some inroads have necessarily been made on a strict system. The Parker collection had, by a condition of the gift, to be kept together, and the most eligible position for it compelled the division of the Fine Arts collection, which is thus inconveniently halved and put in separate corners of the building, and similar disturbances have been made in the departments of bibliography and literary history. Of course, the Library, in accepting other equally extensive collections, may be obliged to take them on similar conditions. Such could not, on the present shelves, be accommodated without the greatest disturbance to the library's classifications. It seems very desirable that a series of independent rooms should be provided, of various sizes and suitable arrangements, to relieve the present hall of these minor consolidated collections, and not only to lodge, but to invite further accessions of a like character.

It has been held from the beginning that the *ordinary* annual increase of the Library would be about 6,000 volumes; and in 1854 it was reckoned, on this basis, that it would contain in fourteen years a hundred thousand volumes. Experience has shown that, for the ordinary increase, the calculation was nearly correct; but

since, before reaching the end of fourteen years, we have fully 136,000 volumes, the difference shows that there are *extraordinary* accessions, like the Parker library and the gift in books of Mr. Bates, which are not calculable. Two more such windfalls now would find the present shelving insufficient to receive them. Your Committee then feel, that though there may not be pressing need of shelf-room, but a few years can elapse before such will be the case; and it possibly may be, at any day.

WHAT IS THE REMEDY? This state of affairs induces your Committee to suggest the occupation at some early day of the ground in the rear, provided for such an emergency. They will not devise a plan, but leave that to be determined by the necessities of the case, as understood by the Trustees; but, in general, it seems to be desirable that the ceiling of the Delivery Room be raised to the height of the adjacent apartments, and the lower library be moved back into the proposed new structure, which should contain also the grand staircase (removing the existing one); and by this means to secure ampler space in the lower story of the present building for a Delivery Room, a Reading Room, and a Fine Arts Room. The new structure need not be costly from ornamentation within, or from exterior finish, as it is chiefly needed for working-rooms, and for supplementary collections. The present Bates Hall would still be kept as the chief architectural attraction of the library.

In case of such enlargement, it may be deemed best to exchange the present defective mode of warming the building for the apparatus of steam or hot-water heating. Your Committee understand, that the furnaces now in use are only kept in order by constant repairs, and something before long will have to be done with them, if no change in the manner of heating is made.

Your Committee would suggest that any radical change in the Lower Hall, by which the shelf-numbers of the books would be altered, ought, if possible, to be made before the consolidating of

the Finding Lists now in progress is effected in a new printed Catalogue of that Hall. The same consideration will apply, though not so urgently, to the Bates Hall.

## II. BOOKS.

HAS THE INCREASE BEEN SATISFACTORY? The number of volumes in the *Bates Hall* as reported, Aug. 1, 1866, was of

Located books . . . . .	96,819
Prince Library, not then located . . .	1,952
Sale duplicates . . . . .	4,955
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Making a total then of . . . . .	103,726
Located 1866-67 . . . . .	5,100 vols.
Not yet located . . . . .	1,678
Parker duplicates . . . . .	186
Excess of duplicates received over exchanges . . . . .	191
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	7,155

The present number in the Bates Hall,	110,881
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An actual count might fall a trifle short of this; first, because about one hundred volumes are missing from the shelves, either lost, or charged to borrowers and not yet returned; and second, because, in re-binding, two volumes have been in some cases put together and now stand on the shelves as one.

In the *Lower Hall* the shelf-lists show that, including 3,002 volumes added during the past year, there have been placed in this collection from the beginning . . . . . 31,802 vols.

An actual count the present year gives . . . . .	25,199	"
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	6,603	"

Deduct transfers to Bates Hall . . . . .	360	"
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And we have . . . . .	6,243	"
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which must be understood to cover all missing and worn-out books since 1858 to the end of the last library year.

Your Committee reckon, then, for a total enumeration, not far from 136,000 volumes. There is reason to believe that the Boston Public Library is destined to become the largest on this continent, while it is unequalled for its accessibility among the great public collections of the world. It is now, we believe, only surpassed, as to size, in this country by the Library of Congress, now that the Library of the Smithsonian Institution, and that of Hon. Peter Force, have been joined to the national collection. They calculate, at the British Museum, that 40,000 volumes will take a mile of shelf-room, which proportion would give this Library over three miles of occupied shelves.

To this collection of books, we must add an increase for the year, of 7,877 *pamphlets*, making a total of 44,443, united to the collection from the beginning. It must be borne in mind, however, that, say from four to five thousand of these, have been culled from the mass as of sufficient importance to bind separately, and are now enumerated as books. Moreover, perhaps a thousand have been bound in groups, and an equal number exchanged, for which there has not been received an equivalent *numerical* return. Roughly, then, from this computation, the Library may be said to contain about 35,000 pamphlets; and the accessions of this sort the past year have been largely in excess of any previous year, owing to the several thousand liberally turned over to the Library by Mr. William Everett, from the collection of his lamented father.

Your Committee consider this record of increase very satisfactory.

DOES THE RECORD OF DONATIONS SHOW ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC A SUSTAINED INTEREST IN THE LIBRARY? Nearly one-half of the collection of books, and a vast preponderance — say all but about 2,000 — of its pamphlets, have been the gift of 3,279 persons and institutions, not enumerating anonymous donors, and counting the same source each time that it appears

on the *annual* return of donors. This one-half is independent of the purchases with the interest of the trust-funds, which are, in fact, likewise the fruit of private munificence. If we add these to the casual presentations, it would show that the vast majority of our books is the result of other causes than the City appropriations. The average yearly number of casual donors has been about two hundred and nineteen, and the past year there were three hundred.

Mr. Edwards, in his "Memoirs of Libraries," affirms that "casual donation is a totally untrustworthy source for the formation of public libraries under any circumstances," but we are glad to say the experience here is quite the reverse. Half, indeed, of our total donations of books have come in large bulk, but an accumulation of between 30,000 and 40,000 volumes in lesser gifts, varying from a single volume to two thousand, is no small benefit from casual responses to our needs. Indeed, Mr. Edwards, who at the time was librarian of the Manchester Free Library, so far qualifies his statement as to say, "In Boston there has been precisely that co-operation between corporate functionaries on the one hand, and independent citizens on the other, which is, I think, to be desiderated here." Your Committee think no other large free library in the world will show so large accessions from casual donors. We have seen no recent enumeration of the British Museum, but of its 540,000 volumes in 1857, only 218,000 had been given. In four of the chief free libraries of England established under the Public Library Acts, almost coincidently with this institution, their aggregate volumes in five years amounted to 140,000, and of these only 30,000 were gifts. In the libraries of this country, that of Harvard College is made up to a considerable extent of donations; but as a collection for general use it is greatly inferior in the quality of its books to ours, very deficient in recent and current literature, and its garnering from private sources shows a much greater proportion of mere literary lumber. Private

munificence has rarely bestowed a more solid value in books upon any institution, than came from the second gift of Mr. Bates. The Astor Library is so emphatically the creation of a single family that it is hardly to be reckoned either as a public endowment or as the outgrowth of an ordinary private benefaction. In the choice of its books, it is to be doubted if its foundation was laid in any better manner than, or even as well, as ours. The library of the Boston Athenæum is in effect a subscription one, and has grown from private aid to be a valuable collection, but, in the nature of the case, it does not make the same appeals to the public interest. Subscription libraries cannot ordinarily depend upon further private assistance than comes from the payments naturally accruing to their treasury. The most flourishing, perhaps, in the country, that of the New York Mercantile Library, while it increased its collection by some 9,000 volumes in 1865-66, found that only one hundred and seventy were given. The records of the Boston Public Library then show, eminently, we think, that it has invited the contributions of the public with a success not elsewhere equalled in libraries of its character.

DO THE BATES AND LOWER HALLS MAINTAIN RELATIVELY A PROPER SIZE TO THEIR COLLECTIONS? The Bates Hall was designed to contain about five times the volumes of the Lower Hall; and this, with slight fluctuations, has been the proportion kept up. It is about the ratio preserved at Manchester, between their central library and the *average* of their five branch or lending libraries. Your Committee see no reason to object to this proportion at present, but they question if it be desirable to increase the bulk of the Lower Hall much over its present numbers, for two reasons. First, because, in a collection circulating so extensively, it is not desirable to use galleries, if as many volumes as will maintain a lively circulation can be shelved on a single floor; and, secondly, because the system of recording loans, now in operation, will show year by year the books that are least called



for, thus pointing out at the season of each new consolidating of the catalogue, what books can be transferred to the Bates Hall, to make room in the Lower for the fresher publications, and those in more active demand.

The growth of these two halls is, in the nature of the case, somewhat determined by the relative amounts of the Trust Funds' interest and the City appropriation; the former, being out of regard to the expressed or implied wishes of the donors, spent for works of solid and permanent value, which find their place commonly, though not always, in the Bates Hall, while the money allowed by the City Council is entirely devoted to the demands of the Lower Hall and the Periodical Room.

DO THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF LEARNING IN EITHER HALL SHOW RELATIVELY PROPER PROPORTIONS? In the *Bates Hall*, if we exclude the Parker, Bowditch and Prince collections (which may be put apart as characteristic in themselves, making together over 16,000 volumes), and throw out something over 5,000 sale duplicates, we shall have an aggregate of about 90,000 volumes, thus far located, and they are divided in classes thus:

Periodicals and Transactions . . .	12 per cent.
English History and Literature . .	12 “
American History and Literature . .	11 “
Theology and Ecclesiastical History .	10 “
French History and Literature . .	7 “
Italian History and Literature . .	5 “
Medicine . . . . .	5 “
Mathematics and Physical Sciences .	5 “
General History and Geography . .	4 “
German History and Literature . .	4 “
Greek, Latin and Philology . . .	4 “
Bibliography and Literary History .	3 “
Other History and Literature . .	3 “
Metaphysics, Ethics, Social Science .	3 “
Fine Arts . . . . .	3 “

Jurisprudence . . . . .	2 per cent.
General Cyclopædias . . . . .	1 “
Political Economy . . . . .	1 “
Useful Arts . . . . .	1 “
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1 “

The accessions of the last year show, relatively, a large increase in Theology and Ecclesiastical History; an increase in American history and literature, and a decrease in English and French history and literature. The department of American history and literature now stands to English history and literature about as ten to eleven, which, considering the extent of the two in printed books, shows that our collection affords a more complete examination into our national life and letters than it does into any other, and your Committee think this extensive garnering of our own literature and history most commendable. If the average call for books in the two departments might be taken as a criterion, our national history and literature might be thought to be unduly cherished, for, of readers in the Bates Hall, those calling for English history and literature to those asking for American, has been for five years an average of seventeen to nine. The proportions of demand and classifications in other departments have run comparatively even, except that the demand for works in the useful and fine arts is probably somewhat in excess of the relative supply in that department.

Your Committee learn, that, from the first gathering of the Bates Hall collection, the aim has been to make each department of relative importance to the needs of this community, and they cannot see that the Library is other than a success in this respect. They are told, that, through the instrumentality of Mr. Ticknor, men distinguished for proficiency in special fields of investigation were invited, early in the history of the collection, to furnish lists of the most desirable works, and that from the thoroughness of these returns the Library has gained much. A

special effort was made in 1857 to secure all that was rare and valuable in books on America, and a list prepared by Mr. Greenough was printed and distributed among dealers with orders to buy, and about one-third of that list has not yet been acquired.

Your Committee learned that the system of the Trustees is to establish regular agents of the Library in the chief European book-marts, and in this capacity Mr. Henry T. Parker is employed at London; Doctor Flügel at Leipzig; Monsieur C. Porquet at Paris; and Chevalier Albèri at Florence. Sums of money are periodically placed to their credit in the hands of Messrs. Baring, Brothers & Co., and these agents, who are statedly furnished with lists of books to be purchased, are instructed to draw upon those bankers to a specified extent. The London agent has a considerable margin allowed him to purchase current books, not ordered; and a lesser margin is sometimes allowed the continental agents for important books, though not ordered. Invoices from the London agency are constantly arriving, and those from the continent come seldom oftener than once a year. For current literature in foreign tongues dependence is placed upon an importer in New York, as the most expeditious way of procuring them. Of the current American publications *all* are sent for examination to the Library by an agent, Mr. Burnham, and none are rejected but the positively frivolous, immoral or needless. Your Committee deem this system well devised to keep the Library supplied with a due variety of books in all the classifications.

The *Lower Hall* shows naturally a very large proportion of fiction, say 7,000 to 8,000, or about one-third of its entire number of volumes, — a proportion not relative to the demand, but in your Committee's opinion quite large enough, as we shall later show. There has been no strict account published of the classifications in this hall since 1860, but the proportion is not perhaps much changed since. It is not always easy to compare the

classifications of two libraries, they are so generally kept on different bases in some particulars; but we should say that while in the circulating department of the Manchester Free Library, history and biography have a larger share of books than with us, in the sciences and the arts the preponderance is on our side. The percentage arrived at in 1860, regarding the classifications of this hall were as follows:

Novels and Amusing Miscellanies . . . . .	37.4 per cent.
Science and Arts . . . . .	12.3 “
Biography . . . . .	10.3 “
Travels . . . . .	9. “
Foreign Books . . . . .	8.8 “
Poetry and Drama . . . . .	6.7 “
Miscellaneous History . . . . .	6.5 “
Religion . . . . .	4.7 “
American History . . . . .	4.3 “

Since 1860 the department of Foreign books has been advanced nearly one per cent of the whole, and at present it contains of

German books . . . . .	1,036
French books . . . . .	1,042
Italian books . . . . .	221
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 2,299

The selection seems to your Committee to be well made.

There has been no enumeration of the *entire* library by *languages* since 1863, and then there were of

English books . . . . .	59 per cent.
French books . . . . .	18 “
German books . . . . .	9 “
Italian books . . . . .	8 “
Latin books . . . . .	4 “
Others . . . . .	2 “

It is to be expected, as the Library grows, that more and more attention will be bestowed upon the foreign literatures, since recourse can be prudently had to further explorations among them, as the most desirable parts of English literature become more and more gathered in.

IS A DUE AMOUNT OF CURRENT LITERATURE PURCHASED? It has been the aim, as your Committee understand, to keep the collection promptly up to the times, purchasing, as a general thing, books of long standing with what moneys are left after supplying the current publications. This plan is subject, however, to some conditions. The Library has, at present, in interest from the Trust Funds, in currency about \$7000, chiefly to be spent for books of permanent value (the conditions of one of the funds require the books to be of five years' standing), and unfortunately there is but a small portion of current publications, which a catholic judgment can pronounce in that category. The great dependence for this end is, then, the City appropriation. For the three years previous to the past there has been an average yearly accession of this current description, of 1,570 volumes. During the past year there has been received the following:

English books . . . . .	635
American books . . . . .	1,154
Continental books printed in English .	104
Foreign books . . . . .	539
	<hr/> 2,432
Duplicates . . . . .	97
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	2,529

This is much in excess of the recent average, and of this number a larger proportion are foreign, than last year.

Your Committee learn, with satisfaction, that measures have been taken to make known these fresh accessions, as soon as

they are prepared for circulation. Something further was clearly needed than the entries in the interleaved catalogues. A book of accessions of current publications, posted week by week, fully meets the requirement. Besides this, periodically, perhaps monthly, a printed list of all accessions is to be distributed.

ARE THE PAMPHLETS INCREASING BEYOND THE PRESENT MEANS OF MANAGING THEM? The collection, as before stated, numbers about 35,000, and such as have been assorted, are arranged within presses, in pamphlet cases, in an alphabetical order of their case-title, so that any pamphlet on a particular subject is easily found. The system of assortment pursued is to place them one by one in these cases, as the subject requires; and by a periodical examination of the cases, it is ascertained when a sufficient number on one subject, or of the proper sequence are obtained, to make a volume for binding to put upon the shelves. In this way, some valuable accessions are made yearly to our catalogue of books. Other pamphlets are judged of sufficient value to bind separately, and however thin they may be, a device in the hands of Mr. Goldsmith, the library-binder, makes the back of sufficient breadth to receive the title and shelf-number, without necessitating the accumulation of blank paper within the covers.

Your Committee ascertained that this assortment is now in such arrears that six months' labor of the usual assistant in this department, would not more than suffice to bring them up; meanwhile the collection is growing daily. Your Committee also learned, that it is impossible, with the various other duties requiring service in the Library, to allow this assistant more than a fraction of his time for this labor; and they cannot but see, that with the present force in the Library, these arrears are becoming more and more unmanageable, and must inevitably get into such bulk and confusion, as to be discreditable to the institution. Your Committee then most earnestly recommend that in the

appropriations for another year, the trustees secure, if possible, a distinct allowance for this department.

IS THE MANAGEMENT OF DUPLICATES JUDICIOUS? In a library of this character, duplicates are of two kinds, those needed for the shelves to meet the demand, and those not needed, and so held for sale or exchange.

The *shelf-duplicates* constitute one-quarter of the entire number of volumes in the *Lower Hall*, being mostly in fiction, though in other classes some books require, or have required them. Thus we have of

Kane's Arctic Explorations, in 2 vols.	22 volumes.
Livingstone's Africa . . . . .	11 "
Different editions of Tennyson . . . . .	12 "
"    "    Longfellow . . . . .	44 "
"    "    Whittier . . . . .	6 "
Froude's England, in 10 vols. . . . .	40 "
Motley's Histories, in 5 vols. . . . .	25 "
Prescott's " in 16 vols. . . . .	101 "
Bancroft's " in 9 vols. . . . .	67 "
Ecce Homo . . . . .	4 "
Ecce Deus . . . . .	4 "

Of the recent "Early Life of the Prince Consort," four copies were at once provided for the Lower Hall, and the English edition for the Bates Hall, and more will be added, if necessary.

It is evident that the demand for any book will slacken materially in time; but this fact, as well as what books require more duplicates, would not be satisfactorily ascertained, when it depended upon observation alone. The present registration of loans by slips brings together, at the year's end, the slips of each book, rendering it easy to determine, where duplicates are in excess of demand, and where more are needed. Further-

more, by the new "Indicator" it can be ascertained at shorter intervals, say weekly, when the duplicates of any book are exhausted, and when the same book is so reported, week after week, more copies can be ordered, if the character of the book warrants it.

It ought not to be expected of a free Public Library, that in meeting the temporary demands for a fresh book, it will compete in the number of duplicates with a private circulating library established for that end. This institution is not a commercial speculation, and if five hundred copies of a popular novel are purchased, and in a month or two not four hundred of the copies are needed, any percentage on their prime cost, that could be received by selling them, would entail too great a pecuniary loss for having endeavored to meet the demands for an ephemeral book. Where a book is really good, even in fiction, the call for it may be measurably met, on the ground that a good novel will always maintain a fair circulation; but with the novels of the day it would be bad policy commercially, and demoralizing beside, for the city to undertake to cater to transient, though popular literary fursors. The inevitable surplusage of stale fiction, which must follow the attempt, cannot be disposed of profitably except by subscription libraries, and even then the policy of smaller town and village libraries is to secure fresh fiction, and a book that has secured a month or two probation elsewhere, is so likely to be denominated musty, that this market for their sales is already too abundantly supplied. Your Committee are of the opinion that such a bartering business is no part of the duty of a library like this; and to follow it would entail a pecuniary loss altogether disproportionate to any gain that might accrue.

In the Bates Hall the duplicates are in very much less proportion. Some shelf-duplicates are desirable. Two copies of a valuable work will allow one to circulate, while the other may be restricted. A book with autographs or manuscript annota-



tions may be of such distinct value as to require another copy for circulation. A different edition, as distinct from a different impression, has of course a separate bibliographical value.

The *sale-duplicates* are of another character, and naturally increase yearly in a collection which grows so much from casual gifts. In 1859, when the present building was first occupied, there were within it 1,804 such volumes, and now there are 5,146. Exchanges are constantly taking place with other libraries, but the process involves a good deal of labor, inasmuch as it is sought to make them book by book, so that the name of the original donor may be inscribed in a work of corresponding value. During the past year there were 714 duplicates added and 523 exchanged, increasing the aggregate by 191 volumes. During the war, by direction of the City Council, duplicates in considerable numbers were sent to the military hospitals, and some are still furnished occasionally to the City Hospital. If ever branch libraries are established in different parts of the city, use can be found for most of the present duplicates, and those yet to be acquired, by turning them over to these minor institutions. Meanwhile they cannot be other than the source of a good deal of labor. To sell them at auction, and to purchase new books with the proceeds, might seem to be the most desirable, as it would be the most expeditious way of managing them; but such a course is often considered ruthless by donors, and to preserve an equivalent for every gift by such a wholesale disposition would be far from easy. It is known that fifty years ago such a course cost the British Museum several valuable bequests; and since they stopped this selling in 1831, it is thought that the interests of that institution have been advanced beyond the drawback from their accumulation, which in twenty years was so large that they had 10,000 duplicates of the commoner kinds of books. Where the consent of a donor to an exchange has been withheld, it has been found desirable in some cases to exchange the earlier copy, if a pur-

chased one, and this has been done to some extent in regard to the duplicates of the Parker collection.

### III. CATALOGUES.

ARE THEY WELL DEVISED, IN GOOD ORDER, AND WELL KEPT UP? The question of cataloguing is one of vast importance, and it has become a very vexed one, though the decisiveness of a Panizzi is little warrant for a hasty judgment from less worthy hands. The difficulty increases disproportionately with the growth of a library. Success, passable perhaps at best, can only be serviceable by keeping the registration well up, which your Committee understand to be the case with this institution. The system here in use embodies the labor of many, and profits by the experience of other libraries, and has been adequately described in previous reports. The *card* system for an *unprinted catalogue* with full titles is more and more valued with experience. In all the subsidiary cataloguing the system of this Library seems to be as particular and diversified as is needful to cover all details, and to enable its officers to keep well in hand its literary forces. This reduplicated labor involves time and money, but if it is desirable — as it certainly is — to insure and have at command a perfect knowledge of the Library's condition, it is necessary. Large libraries are conducted oftentimes with but a part of this machinery, as is the case, we are informed, with the Astor Library, but its Superintendent must often be at a disadvantage where ours is not. Of course, with a free circulating library like this, these means of discovering irregularities, such as shelf-list, etc., are much more necessary than in a collection that does not leave the building.

The last voluminous Supplement to the *printed Index* of the *Bates Hall* is but a year old, and probably some years must pass before another of equal bulk will be required. In the mean time,

new titles are entered promptly in an interleaved catalogue, accessible to the public, besides being given, as we have before stated, in a printed Bulletin, to be issued monthly, if required, and being enumerated — such of them as are current issues — in the order of accession in a “List of New Books received.”

When the *Finding Lists* for the *Lower Hall*, which are printing, alcove by alcove, according to the classifications, are completed, it will be practicable to consolidate the titles in a new Index for that hall, thus dispensing with the present inconvenient Index, with its numerous Supplements.

The new *Indicator* is, also, an adjunct of the catalogues. There was a record made in 1860, for three days, of the novel-seekers who went away without a book because every one on their cards was out, and they proved to be three per cent of the whole. This disappointment, as well as the need of some plan of expediting the delivery, led to the device, by the Superintendent, of this simple but effective instrument, which, if consulted, will prevent such uncertainties, while, from its facilitating the process of administration, it is to be hoped it will invite frequenters from the classes who could ill afford the time necessary to get a book under the old arrangement. The instrument seems liable to error only from the failure of the attendant to turn the pin, but this is guarded against at present by stated verifications; and in time it is expected its management will become almost automatic on the part of those in charge.

#### IV. ADMINISTRATION.

ARE THE RECORDS OF ALL KINDS IN GOOD ORDER? An institution conducted with so much machinery as a large library for popular use, must have a complete system of records, or its variety of detail does not afford the instruction for its better management that it should. Other than the catalogues, there is a variety of records connected with the books, such as the book

of invoices, record of "books asked for," of exchanges and of the statistics of circulation — all of which your Committee found in good order. The records of the Trustees have been kept with precision and neatness from the beginning, and are well cared for, with the files of reports and letter books. The books containing the signers for the use of the Library now occupy several large folios, and must be of interest at some future time as autographs of our generation. One book was of interest to your Committee, namely, that in which the officers and assistants of the institution enter their names, with the hour and minute (if after the regular time), in reporting for duty in the morning, and they were pleased to observe a commendable degree of promptness.

ARE THE EXPENDITURES PROPERLY CARED FOR? Your Committee learned that it is but two or three years since a set of monetary accounts, on a thorough system, was begun in the building, and they found them very creditably kept by the assistant in charge. Before that time there was much difficulty in apportioning the books bought, to the several Trust Funds, and there was no accurate knowledge of the general expenses of the institution to be attained except through the City Auditor. The amount of expenditures had become too large, not to have the means of scrutinizing the record, near at hand. There are eighteen permanent accounts opened, covering the twelve items of appropriations from the City Council, and the six Trust Funds, each book bought with the income of one or the other being carried to that fund. Besides these there is a great number of individual and minor accounts. In the Trust Funds' accounts for the year ending in May, we find an income of \$5,760, mostly in gold, equivalent in currency to \$6,874 21; and at that date, the whole of this had been appropriated for books, except \$295 59; to cover which there was in the hands of Messrs. Baring \$2,111 67, for the purchase of books.

It has been the policy of the Trustees, from the beginning, never to handle money, and all bills are payable to the holders on a requisition of the President upon the City Treasury, after the items have been examined by the Superintendent, approved by the proper Committee, passed by the Committee on Finance, and confirmed by the full board. The only money received in the building is the small sums collected in fines, which last year amounted to \$364.55, and which the Librarian is charged to pay into the City Treasury; besides the small amounts received from the sale of the catalogues, finding lists, etc., likewise disposed of in the same manner.

IS THE LIBRARY OPEN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE? The Library proper has been open on an average for the last ten unbroken years, 276 days, and for the past year, 277 days. It has been kept open in one year (1860) for 297 days, which is one reason, probably, why the daily average delivery diminished materially for that year. The regulations close the Library on the fifty-two Sundays, and on six holidays, and if to these be added two days for any extraordinary occasions, and the month of August, we have left 278 days, which may be considered a fair average opening for a year. The month, that is now required for cleaning the building and verifying the shelf-lists, book by book, may not have been necessary in years past. The first year in this building, but eleven working days were required for this purpose, but then the building was new, and the shelves were much less filled. The task of seeing that every volume of a hundred and thirty-six thousand is in its proper place is no small one, and the recess is not by any means a season of relaxation to the attendants. It will be fortunate, if in coming years, this work can be kept within the month. In libraries that do not circulate, less time will be naturally required. At the British Museum, ten years ago, they kept open 293 days; any later account, since the completion of their new reading hall, we have not seen. This

number is ordinarily exceeded in the Reference Library at Manchester, and they adopt there the plan of three cleaning days each quarter; but in addition to not circulating the books, this Reference Library contains but a little more than one-third of our number of volumes.

During August of the present year, the Reading Room for the first time was not closed, (except for a brief interval while the periodicals were removed to another room, to allow the Reading Room to be newly painted.) It seems desirable that this should be the case hereafter.

The staff of assistants needs periods of relaxation, and the absence of any one regular attendant necessarily disorders somewhat the routine of the library business. This matter is regulated as well as is practicable by allowing as few as possible to be absent at any one time.

IS THE LIBRARY CONDUCTED SO AS TO BE AS USEFUL AS POSSIBLE TO ALL CLASSES? The institution was begun expressly on popular grounds. Mr. Everett, in his letter to the Mayor, in 1851, called it the completion of our public school system, and that has been a favorite designation of it ever since. In the preliminary report of 1852 — the body of which was drawn by Mr. Ticknor — it was wisely recommended that a beginning should be made without any sharply defined plan, so that suggestions from experience could be made effectual; and it was not thought well to make it at once an imposing, learned or scientific collection, but rather to gather a library most fitted for the masses. Mr. Ticknor — whose contributions to the Library in time and experience cannot be overvalued — expressly says, in a letter accompanying a valuable donation of books in 1860, that he would “never have put his hand to the institution at all, but with the understanding that it should be made useful to the greatest possible number of citizens;” and he says that for eight years there had not been any *real* difference among the

Trustees on that point, nor can we learn that there has been any since.

Up to 1856 the system of purchases had looked to supplying the most popular wants. The collection, which had then grown to near 30,000 volumes, was deemed large enough to satisfy the most reasonable demands of a general kind; and it began to be felt that there were particular classes of our citizens, apart from the general body, whose wants deserved recognition. So about that time we find that books in the foreign tongues began to be added, and the higher departments of literature more fully developed. The donations to the Trust Funds, now accruing, in being expended for books of solid and permanent value, served to strengthen very materially the upper classifications; while Mr. Bates's last munificent gift of books developed our weight in the same direction. The time was now come when it was very properly agreed that there was no department of learning, which some portion of the community was not interested in; and that every department should be cared for to meet such requirements. So the two distinct collections have been developed — the Lower Hall to meet the most ordinary demands of the people, and the Bates to serve the higher requirements of the studious classes, or of investigators in special matters — a scheme which your Committee can but think naturally evolved, and conducive to the satisfaction of every mental grade, and answering the requirements of all the intellectual demands of the community.

There is one feature connected with the methods of purchase, which your Committee can but consider almost unprecedented for its liberality, though it confers a privilege that comparatively few seem ready to take. It has always been the pleasure of the Trustees to order any book, if a proper one, when asked for, and not already in the collection. From 1854 to 1865, the number of requests of this kind annually made, greatly fluctuated between 18 and 221, and in one year (1860) several thousand notices were put in all the books delivered for a fortnight, but

it secured only 25 applications, and the average for these twelve years was only 117. Latterly the plan has produced better results. Last year there were 306, and during that just past, 546, and in 95 cases the applicants had failed to discover the desired books were already in the Library, and of the remainder, 260 vols. have been received, leaving 191 still on the order-books of our agents. This privilege is an inestimable one to scholars, and indeed to all, and it is somewhat surprising to your Committee, that it is not more enjoyed. It is really an inducement for an inquirer in any department to make Boston his residence over any other city on this continent. It gives him, or any citizen in need of a particular book, facilities for searching the book-marts of the world, that the wealthiest can hardly command.

Your Committee also believe that in no other large library are readers more expeditiously served. The catalogues are well kept up and accessible. It can be at once known if book or pamphlet is in the collection, and the place of its deposit ascertained. In some other of the libraries about us, this is done only with delay. It takes from six to ten minutes to get a book at the British Museum, after the slip is handed in; so it will be seen that the extent of a collection must necessarily enhance the average delay, however well organized the delivery system may be. With some of the large libraries of the continents of Europe, we have a startling proof of the inconvenience of a less systematic process, in the hours that may be passed in waiting, which are sometimes so extended that a second day's pursuit becomes necessary.

Your Committee have heard occasional complaints from hasty people, that the Library can be of no use to them because they are debarred access to the alcoves, but they have forgotten, that with a printed catalogue of subjects as well as authors, the Boston Public Library is far more serviceable than another collection might be without this aid. Students have told your Committee that at this Library they can investigate a point with far



greater expedition than they can in collections where their privileges give them the range of the alcoves, but where they have no assistance from similar catalogues.

Dr. Cogswell, of the Astor Library, has said, in one of his printed reports, that a free circulating library in New York was an impossibility, and that in less than five years any collection for that purpose in so large a city would be scattered to the winds. Such an opinion may be extravagant, but it is clear that no collection can maintain its usefulness unimpaired without due restrictions, and experience has shown in Boston, that, as you extend the privilege of such an institution, it is likely that those classes least accustomed to books, and least influenced by that reverence for books which is most wholesome, will be drawn in. Yet these are not the only people who commit depredations. Bibliomaniacs are proverbially notorious for some strangely lax notions, and, unfortunately, bibliomaniacs are fond of mousing in alcoves. To make class distinctions is not proper, since, instead of a free library, you have then a library for the elect. It is admitted that an hour's search in an alcove may in some cases satisfy an investigator better than a much longer time at the outside tables; and such access is always accorded to any one who has a determinate literary or other consistent purpose, in the presence of an attendant, if the request is properly made. It is not infrequently replied that all freedom and ease of investigation is out of the question, with such a looker-on to pass you the books. With some temperaments this is doubtless true, but it must be remembered that in allowing one reader a freedom from such restraint, the Library may be of diminished value to hundreds who come after him. Studious persons are not always the most orderly in obeying injunctions or in returning books to their exact place on the shelves, and their misplacements may remain undiscovered until the annual cleaning, so that every intervening inquirer for the misplaced book must be disappointed. This restraint, it seems clear, though sometimes irksome, is really preservative of the Library for the many to come.

Some exception is now and then taken to the rule which keeps from circulation rare or costly works, unless it be by the consent of the Superintendent or of two of the Trustees. This, doubtless, causes delays; but without these obstacles in the way of mere curiosity or amusement, valuable architectural works for instance would be a great deal of the time in the hands of idlers as picture-books, and when the student of that art required them it would be fortunate if he did not find them mutilated, or uncleanly, to a degree that might reasonably disturb his sense of propriety. Such restrictions are properly made, it seems to your Committee, for the preservation of the books *for the classes most interested in them*, and for whose benefit in part the Library has been gathered. A little reflection must convince those who have been most harassed in this respect of the truth of this.

DOES THE CITY ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEED AMENDMENT? The Trustees are charged with the management of the Library, and are properly allowed the appointment of their executive officers, inasmuch as their own good name is largely entrusted to the fidelity of such. In assigning duties to the various officers, they are not free to exercise fully their own judgment, until the apportionment of the salaries goes with the assignment. They have this liberty in all cases but with the Superintendent and Librarian, on whom the most responsibility falls, and upon whose trustworthiness they must depend before all others. It is eminently proper that the City Council should fix the limit in the aggregate of all salaries, but it seems to your Committee that it would be desirable to remove the restraint now existing, so that the Trustees may apportion the recompense, as well as define the duties, of all under them, within some aggregate limits.

The Ordinance of last year, re-organizing the Board of Trustees, opens the way to put five new members, or a majority, into the Board at any election—a conjunction of affairs that might

work serious detriment to the institution in some season of temporary clamor—always to be provided against at times given to devising safeguards for the future—when the unseating of a majority of those most versed in the management of the Library may throw the control into the hands of the inexperienced, or of those chosen, in obedience to some passion of the hour, on other grounds than their peculiar fitness. It seems to your Committee most desirable that two successive elections should at least be required before the predominating influence in the Board can be changed, and this would give a portion of the final majority a year's experience before they shall decide the policy of the Board. A majority at a single election, if given to views gathered outside of the peculiar experience of the Library, might, it seems to your Committee, very likely act in a way prejudicial to its interests. It is most proper that a full representation of the City Council should remain, as at present, in the Board, and the change must accordingly be devised among the other members. It has been suggested, though some objections at once present themselves, that the term of service for those chosen from the citizens at large, should be six years, with one electable every year. This, with the annual three from the City Council, would secure a majority in two years.

## V. CIRCULATION.

IS THE CIRCULATION SATISFACTORY? The number of signers from the beginning up to the opening of the present building was something short of 16,000. A new registration was then ordered, and an equal number signed in a little more than a year's time. Since then there has been a yearly increase of between four and five thousand, so that when the year closed on the first of August, something like 53,000 names stood on the books. It was known that a large proportion of this number, either from death, removal or want of inclination, did not use

the Library; and new cards were given out last year, and including the new signers for that year, some twelve or thirteen thousand were taken, which number must, however, be in excess of the habitual frequenters of the Library, though probably below the number of readers, since in families a book may find several to read it besides the card-holder. At Manchester, for the same circulation as ours, in 1866 they had 7,339 cards in use.

The total number of books in use in *both halls* for the past year was 208,963, a daily average of 754, which is larger than ever before; while the greatest delivery in any single day was 1,813 (against 1,534, the largest previously, in 1863), and of this, 206 were in the Bates Hall, and 1,607 in the Lower Hall. This heavy work comes usually in February.

*Lower Hall.* The number of volumes taken from the Lower Hall, in 1859, was about 150,000; and the past year it was 183,714, which is very nearly the average of the last four years. There would, probably, the past year, have been a material increase over the previous year, but for the fact, that it was necessary in the preparation of the "Finding Lists" to keep two or three thousand volumes from circulation at once, and they were oftentimes of the most popular description. The daily average of loans the past year for the Lower Hall was 664. We can best understand the importance of the work we are doing by a comparison with other libraries, as far as statistics can be used, though any comparison is open to some qualifications. Three of the largest of the lending libraries of the Manchester institution had, in 1866, an aggregate of just about the number of volumes in our Lower Hall, or perhaps a thousand or two more. These circulated very nearly the same number of volumes, as with us for the same year, but as their libraries were open more days, it gives Boston the advantage in daily average of near forty, and it must be remembered Manchester has a population at least double that of Boston, and

with its system of branch libraries brings its books much nearer to a larger number of households. Nevertheless, with those things in its favor, the circulation of the most prosperous of similar institutions in England varied so little from ours, as to be fairly considered identically the same.

The New York Mercantile Library has usually been considered the most flourishing of contemporary libraries with us. In 1866, it contained more than three times the volumes of our Lower Hall (to which it nearly corresponds in character), while its circulation for the same year fell more than 5,000 short of ours. The last yearly report of that institution (April, 1867) shows 90,000 volumes (to our 24,219), 206,120 issues of volumes (to our 183,714), taken by 12,274 subscribers, which indicates renewed exertions to extend its sphere, made effectual in large part by a vast preponderance of fiction among its 10,000 purchased volumes for the year. It should be remembered that more than one-third of the circulation of this New York institution (judging from the returns for 1866, not having seen this item in the last report) is through its two branch deliveries in different parts of the city, and also that, in a vastly larger population, it has no effective rival.

With a system of branch libraries with us, say one in Roxbury, one in South Boston, and one in East Boston, it seems probable that our popular circulation could be made far larger relatively, than it is even now to the most successful of such establishments at home and abroad. At Manchester, the system is well-established and works successfully. Their central collection, though considerably more popular in character than our Bates Hall, is a reference library, and does not circulate its books. A year ago, it contained 38,426 volumes. The five lending or branch libraries contained in the aggregate, 39,318 volumes. The accumulation of duplicates at a central library is always less burdensome, when there are supplemental institutions among which to share them.

*Bates Hall.* The total number of volumes lent from this hall for *home use* since 1862, when the collection was first open, is 53,920, and the past year it was 13,696, the largest number of any year.

It is not so easy to find the actual number of volumes, *used in the hall* for the year, there are so many not taken into account, as when any one by the consent of the Trustees is allowed to make protracted investigations in the alcoves; and, though record is kept of the consultations in the Patent Room, it is by hours and applicants and not by volumes; and, furthermore, no record is made of the use of the excellent reference collection, around the desk, to which the public have unrestrained access. Independent, then, of these classes, there have been used in the hall itself since 1862, 63,525 volumes, and the past year, 11,553 volumes, which was exceeded in 1865, when 13,090 were called for.

The largest number of books delivered in this hall for either use in any one day was 206. The average daily delivery has been 92 volumes.

Comparisons with the use to which other libraries of the solid character of our Bates Hall are put, must be made cautiously. As regards the Reference Library of Manchester, which is a little more than one-third as large as our Bates Hall collection, and shows about three times the number of users, it must be remembered that the population which sustains it is about twice as large, and that its only rival is the Chetham Library, one of those old monastic foundations, which is not of a character to interfere with the success of its upstart neighbor; while within much the same area, and with a far smaller population, the Boston Public Library must share this class of more or less cultivated frequenters, with the collections of Harvard College and the Boston Athenæum. Beside this, we in this community are uncommonly well supplied with lesser collections, accessible to persons making investigations, like the

libraries of the Historical Society, the Genealogical Society, State Library, the Academy Library, the Social Law Library, the old Boston Library, the General Theological Library, etc., so that in the aggregate there are at least half a million volumes in our community, accessible to the public, or reached with ease by any one desiring to use them.

There are two other considerations to be borne in mind in making the comparison with Manchester. First, that it does not appear that they omit to make record of the use in protracted investigations; and, second, that their Reference Library is not of the high character, relative to their lending libraries, that our Bates Hall bears in comparison with our Lower Hall. They put upon its shelves a great deal of contemporary English fiction, while our Bates Hall has little of this kind of literature, except what is classic from long-established fame. Bearing in mind that our upper collection is three times as large as their Reference Library, it will be seen how much more thorough, relatively, we are in the higher departments, if we take a few test authors, and put against each the number of titles in the respective catalogues, including both editions and commentaries.

Homer,	6 at Manchester	.	118 at Boston.
Dante,	4       “	.	93       “
Goethe,	11       “	.	38       “
Shakspeare,	40       “	.	175       “
Lessing,	1       “	.	44       “
Muratori,	13 (vols) “	.	92 (vols) “

Turning to the Astor Library we find that, in 1860, it had about the same number of volumes that our Bates Hall at present possesses, but its number of volumes used was twice the number of those used in the Bates Hall the past year. Every qualification that we have used in regard to Manchester applies with greater force to the largest city of our country, and the most cosmopolitan perhaps of the world, excepting that in the Astor

enumeration, they exclude, as with us, protracted investigations, and that in tone and quality its collection is much the same as our Bates Hall. It should always be remembered that since the Astor Library does not permit its books to leave the building, a considerable share of its frequenters (and very likely enough to reduce, if they were excluded, its delivery to the level of ours) is of the class that with us find their wants supplied in our Lower Hall.

Ten years ago the British Museum was six times larger than our present Bates Hall, and its daily use was twelve times ours to-day; but of course there are a multitude of reasons applicable to a collection which of itself draws many yearly to the greatest city of Europe.

Your Committee, then, have no reason to feel that the Bates Hall is not doing its proportionate good. As the Library grows and gets a national reputation it will, of course, draw investigators to the city, and swell the record beyond the present. It needs to be more generally known how excellent a *working* library, in character and machinery, we have got. The fact already mentioned, that it stands ready to provide any proper book, if it can be found in the book marts of the world, is warrant that it invites the largest use. If that privilege, or the collection itself, is not enjoyed to the highest possible limit, it is owing to the public wants being in part supplied in other directions, and not to the management of the institution, since, in all the collections with which we have compared it, *much more stringent regulations are in vogue*.

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THE READING IN THE BATES HALL? This hall has been open five years, and the *average* yearly use of books in the several classifications is as follows:—

English History and Literature	. . .	17 per cent.
Useful and Fine Arts	. . . .	10 “
American History and Literature	. . .	9 “



Theology, Metaphysics, Ethics, Education	8 per cent.
Periodicals . . . . .	7 “
Mathematics and Physics . . . . .	7 “
Medicine . . . . .	6 “
French History and Literature . . . . .	6 “
General History and Literature . . . . .	4 “
Italian History and Literature . . . . .	4 “
Natural History . . . . .	4 “
Transactions of Learned Societies . . . . .	4 “
German History and Literature . . . . .	3 “
Greek and Latin . . . . .	3 “
Other (including Oriental) History and Literature . . . . .	3 “
Bibliography . . . . .	2 “
Law and Political Economy . . . . .	2 “
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1 “

The most marked annual variation has been in the classification, headed by Theology, which has fallen gradually from 11 per cent. in 1862 to 4 per cent. in 1867. This is owing, perhaps, to the fact, that, at the outset, special efforts were made to interest the clergy and educators in the Library ; and possibly, also, to the fact, that the General Theological Library has been since established. American History and Literature have gradually gained, owing, perhaps, in some measure, in the historical part, to the late rebellion fostering an inclination to learn our own antecedent history, and possibly to the efforts which the Library has made to secure everything in any language relating to that rebellion. It will be seen that the use of books in this department is not much more than half what it is in English History and Literature, which is not so strange, perhaps, in view of the relative extent of the two departments. Nevertheless, there is doubtless a disproportionate inclination among readers for profit to go to books and themes of the old world. Prof. Lowell, in a recent review of the Life of Josiah Quincy, gives a statement, which he was perhaps in as good a position as any one to make, to the effect that “it may

safely be affirmed that for one cultivated man in this country, who studies American, there are fifty who study European history, ancient and modern."

The use of Transactions of Learned Societies has grown. The other departments have not much varied, except that of Useful and Fine Arts, which has greatly fluctuated.

We have no printed record of the use of books at the Astor Library, except in 1860, and by a comparison, as nearly as can be made, it seems apparent that with us the demand for books in the Useful and Fine Arts and for the Transactions is more, and for English, American and General History less, than at that New York institution. In Law and Political Economy, the Astor finds considerably more readers, and this is the department in least demand with us, owing, perhaps, to the existence of the State Library and the Social Law Library.

The records of our Patent Room collection are kept independently, and we have no means of knowing how the use of it compares with either of the other five sets in the United States. The past year 197 persons used them for 248 hours; being ten more persons than the previous year, and the same number of hours. The fact, that at Manchester the record is by volumes, and that the specifications are bound separately, while with us they are bound in groups, prevents any comparison between the two.

WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF THE READING IN THE LOWER HALL? Your Committee have already shown that it was through the Lower Hall the mass of the people was sought in the beginning. The preliminary report of 1852 contended, that, if the habit of reading could be engendered, it would go on improving in character. In 1855, it was thought there was recognizable a demand for higher and higher classes of literature, and accordingly the next year the Trustees reported that they were buying fewer books of mere amusement and more of a higher kind, beginning at this time to add some in the foreign languages. In

1859, it was reported, that only the best of the lighter class of literature was bought. The next year there was a marked falling off in circulation, but such fluctuations are as inevitable as they sometimes are unaccountable. At Manchester they have experienced it in much wider range than with us, and our records generally show a steady increase. At Manchester their circulation in 1866 was no higher than it was ten years previously, yet in the interim it had been 50 per cent. more. The records of the British Museum show that an institution like that is by no means sure of a *steady* hold upon the class that consults its treasures. When our circulation fell off in 1860 (the average daily lendings dropping from 588 to 508) it was thought that this effort to raise the standard of reading, by buying fewer novels, together with the then recent opening of private circulating libraries, was the cause of it; but the next year's returns showed a gain equal to the previous loss.

In 1861, an attempt was made to ascertain what proportion of readers sought for fiction, and two days were selected for the test. On one there were 32 per cent. and on the other 50 per cent. of all borrowers. Not till the past year has it been possible to reach any exact conclusion in the matter, since the slips for the 183,000 volumes that circulated for the year, are now arranged so as to show how many times any book was out. The returns, as made, show what the various classifications were in this demand; but it must not be forgotten that this pertains to the *Lower Hall solely*.

Fiction and Juveniles . . . .	68 $\frac{2}{10}$ per cent.
Libraries, Collections, etc. . . .	6 $\frac{2}{10}$ “
Sciences, Arts, Professions . . . .	6 $\frac{6}{10}$ “
Drama, Poetry, Rhetoric, Belles Lettres.	4 $\frac{7}{10}$ “
Travels . . . . .	4 $\frac{8}{10}$ “
History and Politics . . . . .	2 $\frac{9}{10}$ “
Biography . . . . .	3 $\frac{9}{10}$ “
Foreign Languages . . . . .	2 $\frac{7}{10}$ “

The class, "Libraries, Collections, etc.," includes such sets as Bohn's Libraries and the like, and a good proportion of its 6 per cent. undoubtedly belongs to Fiction, so that roundly about 70 per cent. of the Lower Hall circulation is in the nature of English Fiction, including in this, however, it should always be remembered, a very large share of Juvenile books.

This large proportion for a class of literature that ordinarily includes so much that is morbid and even pernicious, may alarm some of the good friends of the institution, but the subject is not to be dismissed without examination from many points; and your Committee are of the opinion that although they might wish a different record, they must accept the condition as arising from the mental tendency of the masses of the community; and they hope to show that the result with us is no worse than elsewhere, and even sometimes creditable by comparison.

A very competent authority in 1860 (Wm. Chambers) classed the cheap publications of Great Britain, as showing a *monthly* issue of these grades:

Improving books . . . . .	843,000
Exciting but not positively immoral books	1,500,000
Immoral and irreligious . . . . .	80,000

As these books are published for commercial speculation, it is fair to presume they hit the demand relatively, and it will be seen that in Great Britain the chance is about twice as good for selling an exciting but not positively immoral book, as it is for selling an improving book, when they are of the class of cheap publications. The exciting class will doubtless find more readers in the household than the improving, and it cannot be too much to say that three will read the exciting book to one the other. This, as we have seen, is above the proportion of our circulation between fiction and non-fiction, and our readers are doubtless of much the same average class that the cheap publications reach in England. It may then be taken as the normal intellectual taste of that class; but with us the exclusion of

juveniles ought fairly to be made, before instituting a comparison, which would then be largely in our favor. The fact that the "Finding List" for fiction was the earliest printed the past year, thereby meeting that class of readers more openly, has also, doubtless, conduced in some degree to raise the percentage of the demand in this department.

Of course, as we rise into the more cultured classes, we find the proportion of novels dwindling, though the "Saturday Review" not long since, in giving its views on the demand for fiction, expresses the opinion that fifty novels are now read in England, for one that was read at the beginning of the century. With the class of our community depending on the Boston Athenæum, for instance, it would not be surprising to find that their circulation of fiction is not equal to ours, yet it cannot be very greatly inferior. Richard Cumberland, in the "Observer," eighty or ninety years ago, testifies that it was the surfeit of novels then beginning, that led to the frequent establishment of circulating libraries, as a commercial speculation, though Ramsay, in Edinburgh, had begun one on a small scale a half century before. Yet, when these institutions are adapted to the higher classes, as is the case with Mudie's, in London, we find that novels, though still numerous, are not in the majority. Thus Mudie, in the ten years ending 1862, put upon his shelves 960,000 volumes, or seven times as many as this building now contains. We will compare, under a few prominent heads, the percentage of Mudie's purchases, with our Lower Hall collection (as it stood in 1860 — not much changed relatively now), and with our circulation in that hall the past year; it being borne in mind, of course, that Mudie's purchases include a large share of such books as we would put in our Bates Hall.

Class.	Mudie.	Lower Hall.	Circulation.
Fiction . . .	44 per cent.	37 per cent.	75 per cent.
History and Biography	22 "	21 "	6 "
Travels and Adventure	13 "	9 "	4 "
Others . . .	21 "	33 "	15 "

It will be seen that our Trustees have catered less to the demand for fiction, than Mudie, in his commercial spirit, has shown the demand would bear, with his far higher class of readers; notwithstanding it is apparent that, with our Lower Hall readers, every volume of fiction will secure seventeen readers a year, while every volume, not of fiction, will get only four, on an average.

It is not easy to get at any satisfactory apportionment of our frequenters by a social or intellectual gradation, other than as the books they take may be the measure of it. It was thought that possibly the slight restrictions put upon the applicants in the new registration now making, might serve to qualify the number already using cards, in such a way as to represent a class more eager to enjoy its better privileges. With that idea, an examination was made of all the slips, showing the entire number of books out at the end of a fortnight, after the library opened in September, but the proportion was much the same, or even larger, for fiction and juveniles.

Mr. Edwards, when he had charge of the Manchester Library, after a careful enumeration, made out that three-fifths of its frequenters were of the class of artisans, mill-workers, operatives and their families, while the other two-fifths were shopkeepers, clerks, teachers, students, school-boys, etc. It is probable that, with our frequenters of the Lower Hall, much the same proportion is preserved among corresponding classes in our community. By the reports of the Manchester Library, it is not possible to say what proportion, year by year, fiction has held in their circulation, but Mr. Edwards determined, in 1857, that it was five-eighths of the whole, which is probably in excess of what ours is now, if our juveniles be thrown out; and they have, at Manchester, a subordinate department for such readers, which relieves of this class, in a measure, the general circulation.

It will be seen that, counting duplicates, over one-third of our Lower Library is fiction and juveniles; and if the Trustees were

to make their purchases three-fourths of this class, according to the demand, thus multiplying the copies of popular fiction, they could much, and probably vastly, increase the aggregate circulation; but it would inevitably augment the fiction-readers out of all proportion to the other readers. It is in this way that the New York Mercantile Library has run up its large circulation, even among a class of subscription-readers, which must average on a social scale above ours at the Lower Hall, and which does not include readers of juveniles. They have latterly sought to make their purchases meet the demand, and the result has been that while in 1851, 27 per cent. of its purchases were novels, the proportion has been increasing so that it is now full 75 per cent. or somewhat more than our circulation is, including juveniles.

Your Committee, then, are not of the opinion that this large percentage of fiction with us, is anything that need surprise or alarm us. Good fiction is doubtless salutary, and the general character of juvenile literature is much improved over what it formerly was. That there are some books among the collection in our Lower Hall which are not of the wholesomest, may be allowed; but a conscientious effort is made to exclude rigorously everything that is of decidedly evil tendency, and of the half-morbid sort to allow but one, or at most but a very few copies. We may say that the best novels are seldom read in a way to do the most good; but that is a circumstance of course beyond any library's control, and there is a good deal to say in favor of supplying the masses with reading of even an inferior order rather than they should not read at all. Some are of the opinion that much reading of the lower grades will naturally conduce to over-satisfy such half-formed or vitiated tastes, and divert the reader into more wholesome ways. There are others who hold that excess only confirms the bad tendency. We will not judge between them. It needs must be that to most minds of a low intellectual culture, books must be of a character attractive in subject to that grade, or they will not be regarded at all. Once regarded, there

is a fair chance of substituting for books attractive in subject, those attractive in manner, thus leading to a higher range of subjects. Take two instances: The Mühlbach novels have no great artistic or literary merit, but they make history attractive to an average order of minds, and the change from them to an attractive historian is not too abrupt to be easy. The Mayne Reid books — most of them — are exceedingly entertaining in matters of natural history, and show what an advance has been made within a half century in preparing science for the enlightenment of the young. The transition from such books to attractive works on science, say such as Hugh Miller's, is not uncommonly made. Your Committee look upon the passion for reading as formative, and, with such influences as is hoped may be at work in the public schools and in the family, capable of remunerative results even at the bottom of the scale. It is not to be expected, however, that this progressive betterment will show itself in our statistics, for every year a new influx of readers may take the place of those advancing, and preserve the old ratio. Indeed, it would not be strange, if as our circulation enlarges, there is a show of retrogression. The private circulating libraries are in the way of our greatly increasing the number of our frequenters in the Lower Hall from the higher classes; and we must descend lower and lower in the scale to increase at all beyond the natural growth of the classes ordinarily frequenting. Such a descent must inevitably tell upon the character of our circulation.

Your Committee were desirous of ascertaining by some test authors and test books, the general nature of this large demand for fiction, which included about 138,000 volumes for the year. They present first, a tabularization of some *juveniles*, showing the aggregate circulation of each in volumes.

Mayne Reid's Books . . . . .	4,903
Abbott's Stories . . . . .	3,521
Harpers' Story Books . . . . .	2,219
Franconia Stories . . . . .	932



Andersen's Tales . . . . .	390
Grimm's Tales . . . . .	311
Florence Stories . . . . .	200
Carleton's "Winning His Way" . . . .	183
Oliver Optic's "All Aboard" . . . .	199
"    "    "Brave Old Salt" . . . .	120
"    "    "Young Lieutenant" . . .	270
Every Boy's Book . . . . .	156
Boy's Own Book . . . . .	72
Swiss Family Robinson . . . . .	40
Robinson Crusoe . . . . .	55
Tanglewood Tales (Hawthorne) . . . .	50

We will next compare some popular *novelists*, showing the number of volumes to each, including duplicates, and the average circulation per volume.

Author.	No. of vols.	Aggregate circulation.	Circulation per vol.
Cooper . . . . .	173	5,460	32
Marryat . . . . .	116	3,730	32
Simms . . . . .	104	2,345	22½
Dickens . . . . .	206	3,955	19
Thackeray . . . . .	79	1,295	16½
Charles Reade . . . . .	57	923	16
Lever . . . . .	126	2,146	17
Scott . . . . .	200	2,663	13
Hawthorne . . . . .	63	722	11
Tom Hughes . . . . .	43	449	10
Theodore Winthrop . . . . .	22	210	9
Mrs. Hentz . . . . .	96	3,375	35
Mrs. Grey . . . . .	29	805	28
Mrs. Stowe . . . . .	50	980	20
Miss Braddon . . . . .	49	946	19
Mrs. Stephens . . . . .	33	630	19
Miss Muloch . . . . .	101	1,663	16½
Miss Cummins . . . . .	28	379	13
Miss Yonge . . . . .	143	1,312	9
Mrs. Charles . . . . .	40	350	9

Of course, this return must be taken cautiously, as showing the relative popularity of the several authors. To be accurate, it should be certain that the Library is supplied with copies of each relative to the demand; and regard must also be had to the fact, whether an author's works are in one or two volumes, since the return is by volumes and not by books; and with some of them, Miss Braddon, for instance, the number of copies was kept purposely less than the demand.

Some unexpected developments occur with regard to *separate books*. Thus, one of Cooper's least known novels ranks highest of all his, while the "Pioneers," which his publishers say sells the best, shows but little more than half the lendings to a volume.

Authors.		No. vols.	Total.	Average.
COOPER.	Miles Wallingford . . .	8	257	32 $\frac{1}{8}$
	Stories of the Sea . . .	7	258	37
	Pioneers . . .	10	258	25 $\frac{1}{8}$
MARRYAT.	Midshipman Easy . . .	5	385	77
	Privateersman . . .	2	70	35
SIMMS.	Katharine Walton . . .	9	207	23
	Border Beagles . . .	4	131	33
DICKENS.	Pickwick . . .	20	386	19
	Nicholas Nickleby . . .	31	344	11
LEVER.	Charles O'Malley . . .	12	273	22 $\frac{3}{4}$
SCOTT.	Ivanhoe . . .	22	293	13
	Guy Mannering . . .	13	259	19
	Tales of the Crusaders . . .	12	144	12
CHAS. READE.	White Lies . . .	2	60	30
	Cloister and Hearth . . .	10	136	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Very Hard Cash . . .	8	126	19
	Never too Late, etc. . .	23	223	10
	Box Tunnel, etc. . .	1	26	26
	Christie Johnstone . . .	4	126	31
	Peg Woffington . . .	2	61	30
	Clouds and Sunshine . . .	4	120	30
	Love me Little, etc. . .	3	43	14

Authors.		No. vols.	Total.	Average.
TOM HUGHES.	Rugby . . . .	6	169	28
	Oxford . . . .	30	175	18
	White Horse . .	7	105	15
TOM HOOD.	Tales . . . .	1	20	20
	Tylney Hall . .	2	40	20
	Prose and Verse .	1	13	13
HAWTHORNE.	Scarlet Letter . .	10	200	20
	Seven Gables . .	9	112	12
	Blithedale Romance .	7	100	14
	Marble Faun . . .	12	100	8
	Twice Told Tales . .	16	85	5
	Old Manse . . . .	1	75	75
D. G. MITCHELL.	Dr. Johns . . . .	4	56	14
	Other Books . . .	16	107	6 $\frac{1}{6}$
LONGFELLOW.	Hyperion . . . .	8	70	8 $\frac{2}{3}$
	Kavenagh . . . .	5	36	7 $\frac{1}{5}$
THEO. WINTHROP.	Cecil Dreeme . . .	9	88	10
	John Brent . . . .	9	60	7
	Canoe and Saddle .	1	41	41
	Edwin Brothertoft .	2	21	10
TROWBRIDGE.	Neighbor Jackwood .	14	420	30
	Cudjo's Cave . . .	6	212	35 $\frac{1}{3}$
MISS CUMMINS.	Mabel Vaughan . .	9	187	21
	El Fureidis . . . .	11	100	9
	Lamplighter . . .	3	75	25
	Haunted Hearts . .	5	17	3
MRS. HENTZ.	Rena . . . . .	9	279	31
	Planter's Northern Bride.	14	400	29
	Ernest Linwood . .	13	371	28 $\frac{7}{13}$
MRS. GREY.	Flirt . . . . .	2	182	91
MISS MULOCH.	John Halifax . . .	12	241	20
	Christian's Mistake .	8	184	23
MISS YONGE.	Heir of Redcliffe . .	19	205	11
	Daisy Chain . . . .	32	144	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Ben Sylvester . . .	10	60	6

Take some single, *long-established works of fiction* :

Don Quixote . . . . .	96
Gil Blas . . . . .	58
Gulliver's Travels . . . . .	92
Paul and Virginia . . . . .	35
Tristram Shandy . . . . .	21
Vicar of Wakefield . . . . .	75
Miss Burney's Evelina, 9 vols. . . . .	245
Undine . . . . .	43
Picciola . . . . .	18

Take, now, a few good or popular books of recent years which may be presumed to have lost their freshness :

William Ware's Tales . . . . .	160
Lavengro . . . . .	22
Potiphar Papers . . . . .	20
Elsie Venner . . . . .	300
Caxtons . . . . .	66
Lowell's New Priest . . . . .	8
Pique . . . . .	140
Amber Gods . . . . .	18
Alton Locke . . . . .	33
Vivian Grey . . . . .	16
J. P. Kennedy's books . . . . .	180
Typee . . . . .	40
Charles Auchester . . . . .	77
Naomi . . . . .	46
Jane Eyre . . . . .	181
Coningsby . . . . .	12
Sam Slick . . . . .	39
Out of His Head . . . . .	35

A few of the more *ephemeral type* :

Dunn Browne . . . . .	30
Artemas Ward . . . . .	95
Verdant Green . . . . .	45

We turn, now, to the remaining quarter of our circulation, covering other books than fiction. The circulation of *French, German and Italian* books was 5,064, and these authors are noted:

Dudevant (George Sand)	. . .	11
Victor Hugo	. . . . .	203
Goethe	. . . . .	338
Kotzebue	. . . . .	217
Schiller	. . . . .	262

*Richter in English translations:*

Campaner Thal	. . . . .	5
Levana	. . . . .	14
Titan	. . . . .	17
Walt and Vult	. . . . .	16

*Poetry, Drama, Rhetoric and Belles Lettres* circulated 8,750; and these are noted:

Tennyson, 12 vols.	. . .	124, or 10 each
Longfellow, 44 vols.	. . .	429, or 10 each
Whittier, 6 vols.	. . .	91, or 15 each
Clough	. . . . .	4
Shakespeare	. . . . .	545
Bell's Theatre	. . . . .	859
Minor Drama	. . . . .	757

*Sciences, Arts, Professions, etc.*, circulated 12,250 vols.; and these are noted in Domestic Economy and Agriculture:

Mrs. Hale's Cook Book, 4 copies	. . .	4
Mrs. Putnam's Cook Book, 1 copy	. . .	12
Mackenzie's Receipts, 4 copies,	. . .	50
Inquire Within, 2 copies	. . .	16
\$600 a Year, 1 copy	. . .	4
How I Managed My Children, 4 copies	. . .	3
Copeland's Landscape Gardening, 2 copies	. . .	6
How to Get a Farm, 2 copies	. . .	8

How to Farm Profitably, 1 copy . . .	3
Ten Acres Enough, 2 copies . . .	17
Allen's Grape Culture, 3 copies . . .	15
Rand's Parlor Gardener, 1 copy . . .	16
Downing's Landscape, etc., 3 copies . . .	25

*Travels* circulated 8,837; and these are noted:

Kane's Arctic Explorations, 23 vols. . .	205
Livingstone's Africa, 11 vols. . .	58
Burton's Travels, 8 vols. . .	16
Speke's Africa, 1 vol. . .	13
B. Taylor's books, 28 vols. . .	141
Eothen . . .	7
Crescent and Cross . . .	14
Fletcher's Brazil . . .	20

*History and Politics* circulated 5,425; and there are noted:

Froude's England, 40 vols. . .	154
Motley's Histories, 24 vols. . .	125
Prescott's Histories, 101 vols. . .	323
Abbott's Histories, 10 vols. . .	64
Bancroft, 67 vols. . .	137
Headley's Histories, 2 vols. . .	14
Carlyle's Frederick, 10 vols. . .	21
Parkman's Pontiac . . .	14
Parkman's Pioneers . . .	2
Benton's Thirty Years, 2 vols. . .	12

These of *local* interest:

Frothingham's Siege of Boston . . .	42
Drake's Boston. . .	34
Barry's Massachusetts, 3 vols. . .	8
Wells' Samuel Adams, 3 vols. . .	2
Loring's Boston Orators . . .	7

These connected with the *late war*:

Nichols' Great March . . .	9
Miles O'Reilly . . .	42

Semmes' Cruise . . . . .	37
Coffin's Four Years' Fighting . . . . .	8
Greeley's American Conflict, 2 vols. . . . .	22
Youth's History of the Rebellion . . . . .	20
Barnard's Peninsular Campaign . . . . .	22

These few *theological* or similar works :

Ecce Homo, 4 copies . . . . .	34
Ecce Deus, 4 copies . . . . .	15
Renan's Jesus, 4 copies . . . . .	39
Cumming's books . . . . .	85
Spurgeon's books, 5 copies . . . . .	14
Ingraham's Pillar of Fire . . . . .	10
Ingraham's House of David . . . . .	15
Pilgrim's Progress . . . . .	18
Essays and Reviews . . . . .	13

These few *miscellaneous* :

Dana's Idle Man . . . . .	20
Thoreau's Walden . . . . .	54
Catlin's Indians . . . . .	3
Webster's Works . . . . .	32
John Adams' Works . . . . .	9
Harper's Monthly, (bound volumes) . . . . .	2,737
Guerin's Journal . . . . .	13
Oehlenschläger's Correggio, (Eng. transl.) . . . . .	16

It should not be forgotten that these statistics pertain to the Lower Hall *solely*; and some of the works designated may also be found in the Bates Hall. Your Committee cannot but see that here are the means, through this record of slips, of apportioning supply in duplicates to demand, better than were at hand before this new system was put in practice.

IS THE READING ROOM WELL-MANAGED AND SUFFICIENTLY SUPPLIED? Until the past year there has never been any trustworthy record kept of the use of this department. The new

system of delivering periodicals on application, while it debars some from a rapid survey of all as they lie upon tables, works advantageously for the greater number, secures order, and protects the property from mutilation and loss, to a degree not possible by any system of espionage. It has, accordingly, been safe to add duplicates freely, and of 13 periodicals we now have 53 copies, and 195 single copies of other periodicals, making 208 in all. The Reading Room was opened in 1859 with 140. The present number is divided by languages :

English	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	141
French	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	39
German	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	27
Italian	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

And by classes :

Scientific	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	85
Literary	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	68
Religious	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Illustrated and foreign newspapers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12
Commercial	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Fashions	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Illustrated Magazine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Juveniles	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Fine Arts	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Diplomacy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1

During the past year there have been 91,832 readers of periodicals and reference books, and of this number 12,348 were females. It shows something of the different constitution of society, that of the 71,353 readers in the corresponding department at Manchester, but 288 were females. The average number of readers daily the past year was 254, and 283 magazines were read on an average daily for the 289 days the room was open. Some 60 persons, mostly strangers, enter the room daily, out of curiosity.



CAN ANYTHING MORE BE DONE TO GUARD THE BOOKS FROM MUTILATION AND LOSS? Mr. Ticknor, in the preliminary report of 1852, in sketching out a plan for the Library, novel in some important respects for a public institution, and which is substantially the basis upon which it is administered to-day, urged strongly the desirability and probable safety of circulating the books freely among certain classes of our community (where the class bore with it a kind of responsibility), without any surety but their personal recognizance; but contemplated that it *might* become necessary in ordinary cases to require some pecuniary guaranty. The free libraries in England, which were about that time starting, under the Parliamentary acts of 1850, were requiring this as a condition, before their privileges were accorded to a citizen; and they have retained it without any apparent check upon their usefulness, and with much greater security to their property, than we have enjoyed. Still, the experiment of a freer library than the world had ever known, was not, perhaps, an ill-timed one, and, for a while, it was thought to have been an unvarying success, and, to this day, no pecuniary voucher is demanded.

A few books were reported lost, at first, in Mason Street, and the number had increased, until the last year in that place, it was two hundred for the year. Still, it was thought there had been no wantonness. In 1857, we began to hear of mutilations, with hints at future stringency. The next year, it was thought some degree of wantonness was discoverable. The first year in the present building (1859), one hundred and thirty were reported lost; of these, forty-two were subsequently recovered, leaving eighty-eight unaccounted for. It increased yearly, until it had got to be annually between five and six hundred, when, at the beginning of last year, some check was put upon it by issuing new cards and recalling the old ones. Still, for the past year, four hundred and sixty volumes are reported missing, and of these, two hundred and ten are charged to borrowers, who

cannot be found or traced at the addresses they gave, leaving the sad inference of premeditated fraud.

Nor is this a measure of the wanton damage to the books. Mutilations and defacements are becoming common. In 1862, the Superintendent reported, that, in his judgment, more was to be feared from this evil than from loss; and in successive reports it has been dwelt upon, and the time predicted when stricter supervision of the delivery would be necessary. There was formerly no adequate remedy for this kind of injury when discovered, and it was hardly possible with the force at command to collate a sixth part of the books returned. Last winter the necessary law to meet such cases of mutilation and defacement was passed by the Legislature; and the statutes of the Commonwealth now afford a wholesome remedy in discoverable cases.

The losses from wear and tear, if actually done in good service, excite no unpleasant inferences. Not a few books come into the library's possession partly worn. While in Mason Street 200 were reported worn out; and since the library has been in the present building, the number worn out must have averaged that yearly. The ratio will of course increase as the books are longer in use. During the past year over 4,800 volumes have been either rebound or had their bindings repaired, a small portion of which belonged to the Bates Hall. Your Committee cannot learn that this absolute wearing out of books is anything more than ought to be expected. Comparing our experience with that at Manchester, there seems to be something in our favor, provided, of course, the same degree of damage condemns a book in both libraries. Thus the aggregate circulation at Manchester for its first five years was about the same as ours for the first three years in the present building, and while at Manchester 800 volumes were reported worn out, with us it was less than 500. A popular novel usually wears out two or three strong bindings before it is condemned. Some estimates can be made of the

wear, from the fact that one person is employed most of the time in renewing the paper covers on the Lower Hall books.

The total number of *missing and worn out books* has been about 6,700 volumes from the beginning; and this, on an aggregate circulation of 2,000,000, is only something over one-third of one per cent., which is not excessive certainly. This amount of loss is almost exactly the same that the records of the New York Mercantile Library show it to have sustained, on the same number of volumes, during its career.

What proportion of this number can be put down to absolute theft or books unaccounted for, it is not easy to ascertain; but your Committee see by the records that this most disgraceful kind of loss is increasing out of all proportion to the circulation, which is now only 30 per cent. more than it was in 1859, while the loss in unaccounted-for books, on the best data that can be found, is something like 300 per cent. more. This increase does not probably show a relative increase of offenders, since a *few*, by observing the impunity with which it could be done, would naturally enlarge their range of depredations. The reference books around the desks in the Bates Hall and the Reading Room are open to the inroads of a class of thieves, known to the police, to exist in fraternities, so that books stolen from libraries and shops in one large city, are transmitted to their fellows in another to be disposed of. These practices are in no small degree doing a work of demoralization, which every consideration of justice and well-being requires to be checked.

To do this without temporarily curtailing the circulation were, perhaps, not easy. The example of Manchester showed, that where considerable restraint had been put at the start and consistently kept up, a large circulation could be maintained. Your Committee know that it is more difficult to impose restraints at a late day; but they believe it is never too late to do right; and the public will be sure to see that by right-doing their privileges are more fully protected than ever.

At Manchester they require two pecuniary vouchers among the rate-payers, renewed every five years, for each applicant. On the same circulation as ours in 1865-6, they lost but fifty-six volumes, and they were all replaced — thirty-three by the borrowers, and twenty-three by the guarantors. Beside this they enforce pecuniary satisfaction for mutilations and defacements.

Your Committee understand that in the new registration now in progress each applicant is required to give two referees, who can, if need be, verify his statements. By this means, several irregularities that might have caused confusion and loss, have been discovered and guarded against. Your Committee believe this restraint good as far as it goes, and trust that it will not be found necessary to go to the limit employed at Manchester; but they have no hesitation in saying, that this community should assert its right to be called quite as orderly as any other; and if that pre-eminence can only be secured by the pecuniary vouchers, they should be required.

In the *Bates Hall* the loss has not as yet been great. There were reported last year as lost since the opening in 1862, 43; and of these 10 have been recovered; and 18 have been added to this number during the past year, some of which will doubtless be found, so that the total now gone from the shelves is 51, beside 48 charged to borrowers and not yet returned.

In conclusion, your Committee would bespeak for the Public Library of the City of Boston, from all quarters, a continuation of that enlightened interest, which has in the past been bestowed upon it with a success, that is both gratifying to this community, and a source of admiration with strangers.

Respectfully submitted,

JUSTIN WINSOR.

ALFONSO BOWMAN.

CHAS. W. FREELAND.

C. D. HOMANS.

HERMAN J. WARNER.

R. C. WATERSTON.

# [B]

## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

*To the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston.*

GENTLEMEN: In obedience to the requirements of the By-Laws, I beg leave to present to you a Report upon the condition and increase of the Library for the year ending September 1, 1867.

In consequence of the facilities furnished by the new method of recording loans, I had the satisfaction of presenting to you immediately after the close of the year ending July 31, 1867, the annual statistics respecting the growth and use of the Library which heretofore could only be partially obtained two or three months later. These statistics have given to the Committee of Citizens appointed to examine the Library, much better means of knowing accurately and fully the condition and progress of the institution, than any of their predecessors had enjoyed. In their Report will be found a systematic analysis of these figures, and deductions from them of great importance.

### INCREASE OF THE COLLECTIONS.

In Both Halls.

	Books.	Pamphlets.	Other articles.
Presented . . .	1,465	7,769	33
Purchased . . .	7,395	104	
By Exchange . .	337	4	
Total of Accessions .	9,197	7,877	33

Whole number of donors, 300.

A list of the names of donors is appended to this Report, and marked [AA].

It will be understood that some of the books added—most of them donations—are duplicates, and that many of the pamphlets have been bound and placed on the shelves as books, and a large number of books lost and worn out since the opening of the Library have not been replaced; consequently the accessions for the year cannot be added to the aggregate reported last year, in order to find the present extent of the collection.

Among the donations for the year are several which should be particularly mentioned.

The Hon. William Gray presented at one time 417 volumes, many of them works of importance, besides pamphlets and several large maps and plans of special value.

William Everett, Esq., presented, besides several valuable books, 6,829 pamphlets, some of them of much rarity, collected by his late honored and lamented father.

The children of the late Hon. Josiah Quincy have given to the Library a large number of the early Public Documents of the United States Government, bound in 128 volumes folio and octavo, collected as they were published, by their father, with indexes and notes in his own handwriting. The importance of this collection to the Public Library is very great. The set presented by Mr. Everett was perhaps the very best in the country. He commenced it in the earliest days of his public life, and spared neither money nor time to make it complete. But before his day a large number of these documents were quite beyond reach. It is these earliest and scarcest of the government publications which Mr. Quincy, with characteristic foresight and care, gathered and guarded, and which his children have now most worthily placed where they may add to the many permanent memorials of the public spirit and high intelligence of their father.

A bust of Mr. Everett, by Thomas Ball, was presented to the

city by the subscribers to the Everett statue, with the request that it should be deposited in the Public Library. It is placed in the Lower room, now devoted to works of art.

A bust of J. Lothrop Motley, by Richard S. Greenough, has also been presented by Mr. Thomas B. Curtis, and has been placed most appropriately with the bust of Mr. Everett.

The accessions to the Bates Hall for the year may be generally classified by subjects as follows. The classification is, however, of books as they now stand upon the shelves. It does not include those books which are necessarily placed by themselves, such as the Bowditch, Parker, and Prince Libraries. The divisions in the Lower Hall are not given. It is known, however, that they are, all of them, of the popular class of books, and most of them in the English language.

The whole number of books placed during the year in the Lower Hall, is 3,002.

*Classification of Accessions in the Bates Hall, 1866-67.*

Cyclopædias, etc.	. . . . .	24 vols.
Bibliography and Literary History	. . . . .	170 "
General History and Geography	. . . . .	170 "
American History and Literature	. . . . .	515 "
English History and Literature	. . . . .	493 "
French History and Literature	. . . . .	188 "
Italian History and Literature	. . . . .	87 "
German History and Literature	. . . . .	228 "
Greek and Latin Classics and Philology	. . . . .	190 "
History and Literature of other countries of Europe and Asia	. . . . .	214 "
Periodicals and Transactions of Learned Societies	. . . . .	314 "
Theology and Ecclesiastical History	. . . . .	968 "
Metaphysics and the Social Sciences	. . . . .	185 "
Jurisprudence	. . . . .	145 "
Political Economy	. . . . .	79 "
Medical Science	. . . . .	370 "

Natural History . . . . .	155 vols.
Mathematics and the Physical Sciences . . . . .	312 “
Useful Arts. . . . .	96 “
Fine Arts . . . . .	197 “
	<hr/>
	5,100 “
Prince Library . . . . .	1,952 “
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	7,052 “

The following statement shows the number of *recent publications* included among the accessions :

English books printed in Great Britain,	635 volumes.
“ “ printed in America,	1,154 “
“ “ printed on the Continent,	104 “
Foreign . . . . .	539 “
	<hr/>
	2,432 volumes.
uplicates . . . . .	97 “
	<hr/>
	2,529 volumes.

The Trustees have, by a standing invitation, — often republished, — requested persons wishing books which they could not find in the Library, to ask for them by filling blanks furnished for the purpose; and the promise has been made that such books shall, unless there is some special reason to the contrary, be purchased as soon as possible. The number of these requests has increased latterly from year to year. It frequently happens that persons ask for books already in the Library. In such cases they are immediately informed of the fact through the mail. When a book asked for has been procured, the applicant receives immediate notice, and is told that the volume will be retained five days subject to his order.

The following table shows the number of *books asked for* during each month of the last year, the number of them which were found to be already upon the shelves, and the number procured :



	Date.	No. asked for.	No. in Lib'y.	No. rec'd since.
1866.	August . . . .	7		3
"	September . . . .	17	5	8
"	October . . . .	42	11	20
"	November . . . .	46	10	25
"	December . . . .	36	8	18
1867.	January . . . .	51	12	27
"	February . . . .	92	14	55
"	March . . . .	62	7	45
"	April . . . .	67	6	35
"	May . . . .	22	8	5
"	June . . . .	51	9	12
"	July . . . .	53	5	7
		<hr/> 546	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 260

## PRESENT EXTENT OF THE COLLECTIONS.

The Library contained by shelf-lists on the 1st of August, 1867:

In the Bates Hall . . . . .	110,782
In the Lower Hall . . . . .	25,199
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 135,981

The books in the Bates Hall comprise:

The general Library, classified by subjects . . . .	87,557
The Bowditch Library, kept by itself . . . .	2,542
The Parker Library, kept by itself . . . .	11,721
The Prince Library, kept by itself . . . .	1,952
Sale Duplicates not located . . . .	5,332
Books not located Aug. 1, 1867, (all located since) .	1,678
	<hr/> 110,782

The *classification* of the books by subjects, is, in the *Bates Hall*:

Cyclopædias . . . . .	1,054 vols.
Bibliography and Literary History . . . .	2,585 "

History and Geography . . . . .	3,070 vols.
American History and Literature . . . . .	9,339 “
English History and Literature . . . . .	11,049 “
French History and Literature . . . . .	5,983 “
Italian History and Literature . . . . .	4,679 “
German History and Literature . . . . .	3,486 “
Greek and Latin Classics and Philology . . . . .	3,072 “
History and Literature of other countries of Europe and Asia . . . . .	2,707 “
Periodicals and Transactions of Learned Societies . . . . .	10,458 “
Theology and Ecclesiastical History . . . . .	7,962 “
Metaphysics, Ethics, and the Social Sciences . . . . .	2,820 “
Political Economy . . . . .	671 “
Jurisprudence . . . . .	2,014 “
Medical Science . . . . .	4,405 “
Natural History . . . . .	3,925 “
Mathematics and the Physical Sciences . . . . .	4,556 “
Useful Arts . . . . .	877 “
Fine Arts . . . . .	2,557 “
Miscellaneous pamphlets . . . . .	387 “
	<hr/>
	87,656 vols.
From which deduct books not at present on the shelves . . . . .	99 “
	<hr/>
	87,557 vols.

This classification does not include the Parker, Bowditch, and Prince Libraries.

With regard to the numbers assigned to the Lower Hall, it was remarked last year in my Report, that the enumeration included all the books which from the beginning had been placed there. The enumeration was, however, taken from the shelf-lists, without regard to the lost and replaced books, of which it was then impossible to give any satisfactory statement. It was added, that when the re-organization, at that time only commenced, should be completed, a more exact enumeration would be made, which would doubtless show a considerably diminished number. This

year I am able to report the figures after the revision. It will be seen, that, although 3,002 volumes have been placed during the year in the Lower library, the present number of books is actually 167 less than the number reported last year. It thus appears that 3,169 books, lost or worn out during the nine years since the library was first opened to the public, have not been replaced.

The following table represents the present classification of the books by subjects in the *Lower Hall*:

	No. on shelves.
Theology, Moral and Intellectual Science, Education . . . . .	1,488
Jurisprudence, Political Science . . . . .	270
Medicine, Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences . . . . .	1,705
Useful and Fine Arts, Military and Naval Art and Sciences . . . . .	599
American History and Politics . . . . .	1,023
Foreign History and Politics . . . . .	1,333
Poetry, Drama, Oratory and Rhetoric . . . . .	2,268
Fiction and Juvenile Works . . . . .	7,165
Biography . . . . .	2,342
Travels . . . . .	1,897
Libraries, (Bohn's, etc.) Collections, Periodicals, etc. . . . .	2,621
German Books . . . . .	1,137
Italian Books . . . . .	221
French Books . . . . .	1,043
Books of Reference in the Reading Room . . . . .	87
	<hr/>
	25,199

The number of <i>Pamphlets</i> reported, 1866 . . . . .	36,566
“ “ added by purchase, 1867 . . . . .	108
“ “ “ “ donation, 1867 . . . . .	7,769
	<hr/>
Total . . . . .	44,443

This enumeration includes all the pamphlets which have been reported as added to the Library from the beginning. But more than 5000 have been bound either separately or in volumes containing several pamphlets each. By far the greater part of the

remainder are duplicates or odd numbers of magazines and legislative documents, or publications of little, if of any, value. The whole collection should be revised, and every pamphlet of which another copy exists in the Library, or which is not esteemed of value, be no longer included in the enumeration. Although much has been done, it has been impossible, with the force employed in the Library, to do all that is required for the proper care of the pamphlets; and the place, where of necessity they are kept, is insufficient and extremely inconvenient.

The <i>Sale Du licates</i> , August, 1866, were . . .	5,141 vols.
“ added, 1866–67, mostly donations . . .	714 “
	<hr/> 5,855 vols.
Duplicates disposed of, 1866–67 . . .	523 “
	<hr/> Total remaining in the possession of the Library 5,332 vols.

#### USE OF THE LIBRARY.

Notwithstanding the fact that some two or three thousand volumes at a time have during the year been, in the Lower Hall, retained from circulation in order to prepare the Finding Lists, we have to report a more extensive use of the books than in any previous year.

In the Bates Hall were lent for home use, . . .	13,696 vols.
In the Lower Hall . . . . .	183,714 “
	<hr/> Total for home use . . . . .
	197,410 vols.
Add books used in the Bates Hall . . . . .	11,553 “
	<hr/> 208,963 vols.

The Library was open 277 days.

The average, therefore, of books used each day was 754.37

Of which, used in Bates Hall . . . . . 91.98

The greatest circulation on any one day was on the 23d of February, when 1,813 books were given out, and in the Lower

Hall 1,411 returned; a circulation larger by nearly three hundred than on any previous day in the history of the Library.

These figures do not represent the use of the books of reference in the Bates Hall, nor in the Reading Room, nor the use of large numbers of books for extensive researches, often permitted on especial applications, nor the use of the specifications of English Patents which have been consulted during the year by 197 persons, 248 hours.

The following table represents the *percentage of use* of the various classes of books in the *Bates Hall*:

Bibliography . . . . .	1 per cent.
General History and Literature . . . . .	3 “
American History and Literature . . . . .	12 “
English History and Literature . . . . .	20 “
French History and Literature . . . . .	7 “
Italian History and Literature . . . . .	3 “
German History and Literature . . . . .	4 “
Greek and Latin Classics . . . . .	3 “
Oriental History and Literature . . . . .	4 “
Periodicals . . . . .	7 “
Transactions of Learned Societies . . . . .	7 “
Theology, Ethics, and Education . . . . .	4 “
Jurisprudence, Government, Political Economy . . . . .	2 “
Medicine . . . . .	6 “
Natural History . . . . .	3 “
Mathematical and Physical Sciences . . . . .	8 “
Fine and Useful Arts . . . . .	5 “
Miscellaneous . . . . .	1 “

As compared with the table for the preceding year, this shows an increase of 4 per cent. in American History and Literature, of 2 per cent. in English History and Literature, and of Transactions of Learned Societies, and of German History, and of 1 per cent. in French History and Literature and in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences; and a decrease of 4 per cent. in the use of

Periodicals, 3 per cent. in the Useful and Fine Arts, 2 per cent. each in Medicine and Bibliography, and 1 per cent. in Miscellaneous books.

For the first time since the Library was opened to the public, we have been able to obtain full and exact statistics respecting the use of books in the Lower Hall. The record-slips of books borrowed and returned are all preserved in the order of their shelf-numbers, and it is possible to ascertain the number of books on every subject borrowed, and the number of times each book has been lent. These slips furnish a resource never before possessed for ascertaining the real wants of the public, and the directions in which the Library may be made more useful. The Examining Committee have, with much care and minuteness, attended to the details thus furnished, and in their Report have presented elaborate, instructive and interesting results and deductions. The importance to the future usefulness of the Library must be great. The facts will, some of them, perhaps, be unexpected; but they are facts and should be known, and their bearing and tendency should be carefully considered, as they fortunately have been by the Committee.

I will merely present, in this place, the general *classification of the Loans in the Lower Hall*, and refer to the ample details in the Report of the Examining Committee.

	No. of Loans. Per cent.	
Of Books in Science, Arts and Professions . . . . .	12,250	.066
History . . . . .	5,425	.029
Poetry, Drama . . . . .	8,750	.047
Biography . . . . .	7,245	.039
Voyages and Travels . . . . .	8,837	.048
Periodicals and Libraries (like Bohn's) . . . . .	11,480	.062
French, German and Italian . . . . .	5,064	.027
Fiction and Juvenile Books . . . . .	124,663	.682
	<hr/> 183,714	<hr/> .100

It was stated, in the last Report, that it was deemed necessary to renew the cards of all persons using the Library, and that it was hoped that by this means many of the evil practices which had brought discredit upon the Library would be checked. Of the effect of the renewal, in this respect, I shall have occasion to speak in another part of this Report. During the year, 6,990 cards were given to new applicants, and the cards of about 5,000 former signers were renewed, making the whole number of persons who had registered their names from the first opening of the Library in this building — 52,859.

## LOSSES AND INJURIES.

The report this year of losses and injuries is full and accurate. How far the Library has been abused is no longer a matter of judgment and estimate, but of facts and figures. The way in which the wrongs have been done is also in most cases known. The point to which the measures of prevention are to be directed, also, has become distinctly noticeable.

<i>In the Bates Hall</i> , the whole number of books missing from			
the beginning, to August, 1866, was	.	.	33
From August, 1866, to August, 1867	.	.	18
			<hr/>
Total from the beginning	.	.	51
The whole number of books charged to borrowers and			
not returned from the beginning, to August, 1866,			
was	.	.	27
From August, 1866, to August, 1867	.	.	21
			<hr/>
Total from the beginning	.	.	48

Some of the missing books will, doubtless, be regained; and most of those charged to individuals will, probably, be replaced. The condition of the books in the Bates Hall is generally excellent. No complaints have been made of mutilations or defacement.

*In the Lower Hall*, the accumulated losses and misplacements, the natural wear and tear, and the many irregularities of the unparalleled use for nine years had borne heavily upon the condition of the Library, and required great labor and patience in the revision which has been pursued under the skilful guidance of Mr. Jillson, with the striking results here numerically presented.



## LOWER LIBRARY.

CLASSIFICATION.	LOWER LIBRARY.									
	Whole No. of books on shelves from beginning.	No. missing at previous examination.	No. transferred to Bates Hall.	No. remaining after deducting the last two columns.	No. of duplicates included in the last column.	No. worn out and condemned, 1897, &c.	No. lent out and not returned, 1896, &c.	No. missing, 1897, and still not accounted for.	No. on the shelves, August 1, 1897.	
Theology, Moral and Intellectual Science, Education .....	1,650	45	91	1,514	169	14	5	7	1,488	
Jurisprudence, Political Science.....	351	19	59	273	26		2	1	270	
Medicine, Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences.....	1,943	98	107	1,738	221	20	8	5	1,705	
Useful and Fine Arts, Military and Naval Art and Science.....	690	72	1	617	128	16	1	1	599	
American History and Politics.....	1,183	52	92	1,039	247	8	6	2	1,023	
Foreign History and Politics.....	1,395	39	8	1,348	390	8	4	3	1,333	
Poetry, Drama, Oratory and Rhetoric.....	2,495	169		2,326	376	23	18	17	2,268	
Fiction and Juvenile Works.....	11,875	4,211		7,664	3,799	206	111	182	7,165	
Biography.....	2,542	150	1	2,391	613	38	6	5	2,342	
Travels.....	2,103	164		1,939	392	32	8	2	1,897	
Libraries, Collections, Periodicals, etc.....	2,991	278		2,713	426	49	28	15	2,621	
German Books.....	1,199	44		1,155	12	4	11	3	1,137	
Italian Books.....	222	1		221	1				221	
French Books .....	1,065	17	1	1,047	23	2	2		1,043	
Books of Reference.....	98	4		94				7	87	
	31,802	5,363	360	26,079	6,733	420	210	250	25,199	

The whole number of persons to whom notices were sent by mail that they had kept the books borrowed over the fourteen days allowed by the Rules, was . . . . .	15,652
The whole number of persons who kept their books over twenty-one days, and to whom a special messenger was sent to regain the books . . . . .	1,449
The whole number not returned at the close of the Library year . . . . .	315
Number of these recovered or accounted for . . . . .	105
Whole number which were taken by persons who could not be found of which a few have been returned . . . . .	237
The amount paid for postage and messenger's service was	\$714 48
The amount received for fines and messenger's fees . . . . .	\$366 50

These statements show the great slackness of borrowers with regard to the return or renewal of their books. When it is remembered that the term of the loan may be doubled, without returning the book to the Library, on simply requesting by note the renewal, this amount of delinquency seems the more strange and inexcusable.

The labor and expense of writing and sending by mail 15,652 notices to delinquents was very considerable.

Still greater were the cost and trouble of sending for books by the messenger. He was engaged in searches often fruitless, and even when he succeeded in regaining the book, it was frequently after a long and tedious pursuit.

And, after all the labor and expenditure, the result now is that *two hundred and ten books* were taken, as it would appear, with deliberate deception.

The delinquents were not only unjust to the Library, but to many honest frequenters of it who desired to use the books thus withdrawn from their reach.

The time of the attendants in the Library required in tracing these delinquencies, was a serious charge upon the funds of the institution, while the exercise of less vigilance would have resulted in a great loss of books and a reproach which would have

rested heavily upon the generally careful frequenters of the Library. It will be seen, also, that the fines and messenger's fees collected are but a partial offset to the amount paid for postage and the services of the messenger.

Were the circulation small, and the persons using the Library few in number, it might be possible to exercise greater care in the delivery of the books and in the scrutiny of applicants. But in a circulation like this it is utterly impossible to do anything more than to answer applications without questions or delays.

The reasons why so many who had borrowed books could not be found, was, that they had registered false names or false residences. One person was ascertained to have had in use three cards at one time taken under aliases. Several persons had taken two cards on one name at different times. Many were using cards of other persons improperly obtained. It appeared, too, upon inquiry, that these evil practices had most alarmingly increased.

These facts came gradually to the full knowledge of the Trustees, as the careful methods of recording loans and following delinquents under the new system brought them to light from week to week. They were well considered. The cause of the evil became clearly manifest. The registration had been too unguarded. But it was a difficult question how to apply the remedy. To require of each applicant for cards a pecuniary guarantee was the most obvious, the easiest, and the most common way. But it was feared that this might sometimes operate to prevent poor but worthy people from applying. It was, therefore, proposed to try first a plan of requiring every one asking for a card to name two persons who could verify his statements. Such reference does not involve any pecuniary responsibility on the part of the persons referred to, nor impose any trouble upon them, nor raise any questions of delicacy in making the reference.

But such references, if required of one, must be of all. Otherwise offence might be taken. No thoughtful person, it was sup-

posed, would object to so small a service for the public good, when he considers that humbler people would have their pride seriously wounded should they notice that they alone and not all others were required to give the means of verifying their statements. In this plan there seems to be the least possible trouble to applicants consistent with probable security for the books, and it is earnestly hoped that it may be effectual, and obviate the necessity of resorting to more stringent measures.

Objections would, of course, be made to any change, that it would drive people from the Library, diminish the circulation, etc. The same objections were made last year against the new system of recording loans then introduced, and they are now seen and acknowledged to have been entirely groundless. But, thus far, during three months, instead of driving people away, the registration has proceeded more rapidly than during the same length of time when the first records were opened in this building, and the new measures are showing beneficial results. Already attempts have been detected at forging the names of other persons upon the application-slip, and at committing various irregularities which would have caused much trouble and expense, had they not been forestalled.

#### THE READING ROOM FOR PERIODICALS.

The use of the Reading Room for periodicals has never before been so large, nor its order ever so satisfactory. None of the magazines have been stolen or wantonly mutilated. This improvement is due entirely to the new system of placing the magazines under the care of an attendant, to be given out on application signed by the borrower.

I regret to state that some of the books placed for free consultation in this room have been stolen. It is believed, however, that they were nearly all taken by one person, who for several months has desisted from his nefarious practices here.

## PERIODICALS.

Whole number in the Reading Room . . . . .	208
Whole number of which there are duplicates . . . . .	14
as follows :	
Atlantic Monthly . . . . .	5 copies.
American Agriculturist . . . . .	2 “
American Phrenological Journal . . . . .	2 “
Godey's Lady's Book . . . . .	4 “
Dwight's Journal of Music . . . . .	2 “
Every Saturday . . . . .	4 “
Harper's Bazar . . . . .	4 “
Harper's Monthly . . . . .	11 “
Harper's Weekly . . . . .	4 “
Our Young Folks . . . . .	4 “
Nation . . . . .	2 “
North American Review . . . . .	2 “
Peterson's Magazine . . . . .	4 “
Round Table . . . . .	2 “

At the suggestion of a reader, a Bulletin is now placed in the room, giving the date of reception of the last number of each periodical.

The following are the statistics of the room for the year :

Readers of Books of Reference	{ Males . . . . .	14,319
	{ Females . . . . .	3,955
Readers of Periodicals and Books of Reference	{ Males . . . . .	65,165
	{ Females . . . . .	8,393
Whole number of readers . . . . .		73,558
Number of magazines read . . . . .		81,783
Visitors not reading . . . . .		17,623
Number of days open from August 15, 1866, to August 1, 1867 . . . . .		289
Average of readers per day . . . . .		254 $\frac{152}{289}$
Average of visitors not reading . . . . .		60 $\frac{283}{289}$
Average of magazines read . . . . .		282 $\frac{295}{289}$

## CATALOGUES.

In the Bates Hall, since the publication of the large Supplement, the accessions have been made known to the public by means of the interleaved catalogues which have been promptly kept up to the last books located.

The Catalogue of the Prince Library upon cards, has been completely finished with the fulness, and it is hoped, with the minute accuracy, which the importance of this valuable collection demands. The part containing books relating to America, has been copied for the press with titles abridged, but still of sufficient length to render each book and edition identifiable, and the printing has been commenced.

In the Lower Hall, the work upon the "Finding Lists" has been pressed forward as rapidly as possible. But it has been impeded by the necessity of first revising and reorganizing the whole collection, while, at the same time, the Library was open to the public. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Finding Lists for twelve of the alcoves, containing the Departments of Fiction, Arts and Sciences, History, and Foreign Languages, have been published and distributed — the lists of two alcoves of Biography, and two of Voyages and Travels are now made nearly ready for the press, and some of the work of collation and reorganization has been performed for the remaining four alcoves. These Finding Lists have been received with much favor, and when the printing of them shall be completed, it will be possible to commence almost immediately upon the re-publication of the Index to the Lower Library, with all subsequent accessions, in the form so long familiar to our readers.

## THE BULLETIN.

So great were the labors of the officers of the Library during the year, that it was found impossible to commence the publica-

tion of the Bulletin as recommended by the last Examining Committee, before the month of October, when the first number was issued, containing the books received in the Library during the month of September, and in the Lower Hall, all titles supplementary to the various Finding Lists which have been printed. These Bulletins are sold at the merely nominal price of two cents a copy, and have been widely distributed. It is proposed to continue them at intervals, which, if the publication proves as acceptable and useful as now expected, may be monthly.

In each branch of the Library a Daily Bulletin is open to the public, of all newly published books as they are received. Such books are almost invariably made accessible to readers within twenty-four hours after they are brought into the building.

#### THE INDICATOR.

One other means, recently adopted for the convenience of the public, remains to be described, which has received the name of the Indicator.

Every borrower has from the beginning been allowed to place upon his card applications for twenty books at one time, that he might be the more sure of getting a book, and the visitor, who had thus filled his card with requests, was obliged to wait his turn for the attendant to make search, perhaps for every one of the twenty books, to be disappointed after all. The delay thus experienced was often greatly increased by the common practice of visitors, which it seemed impossible to prevent, of immediately sending back the card which had been returned without a book, with the same numbers remaining upon it. This state of things was long a most serious inconvenience to the frequenters of the Library and a severe burden upon the attendants.

To obviate these great difficulties, the device named has been recently invented and placed in the Library. It shows to a borrower, at a glance, without the necessity of reference to an

attendant of the Library, whether any book sought, is, at the moment, on the shelf or lent out; and, therefore, renders it unnecessary to send in a card indicating books which cannot be procured.

The Indicator at present constructed, applies to Alcoves 4, 7, 14, and 17, containing works of fiction and juvenile books, of which a separate Finding List has been printed.

An upright framework is so arranged as to receive strips of wood, one inch square and about two feet in length, placed one above another, to represent each a shelf, and pierced with rows of holes, say five-eighths of an inch in diameter, to contain reversible pins, each of which represents a book.

The *shelf-number* is to be found at the end of each strip. The number denoting the *order* of the book upon the shelf is placed upon each end of every pin.

The pins are reversible. On one end of each pin the number is printed in *black on white* ground. When the book is *on the shelf*, this end of the pin is always turned outwards.

On the other end of the pin, the number of the book is printed in *white on black* ground. When the book is *out*, this end of the pin is always turned outwards.

The use of the Indicator seems to have been readily understood even by children. It has proved already of the greatest convenience to frequenters of the Library, and has been received with much favor. There seems no reason to doubt that it will prove permanently useful.

The two tables previously published, giving the statistics of the progress of the Library are appended to this Report, and marked [BB].

The usual financial statement is appended to this Report, and marked [CC].

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES C. JEWETT,

*Superintendent.*



[AA]

LIST OF DONORS.

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Bates, Joshua, London, interest on the fund of	.	.	\$50,000
Bigelow, Hon. John P.,	"	"	1,000
Franklin Club,	"	"	1,000
Lawrence, Hon. Abbott,	"	"	10,000
Phillips, Hon. Jonathan,	"	"	30,000
Townsend, Mary P.,	"	"	4,000
			<hr/>
			\$96,000

The interest of these donations, with the exception of that of the Townsend Fund (which is invested in a mortgage at six per cent.), has been paid in gold, at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

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A bust in marble of Mr. Everett, by Thomas Ball, presented by the subscribers to the Everett Statue, through their Committee. The pedestal in marble presented by the artist.

A bust in marble of J. Lothrop Motley, by Richard S. Greenough, presented by Mr. Thomas B. Curtis.

DONORS.	Vols.	Pam.
Abbot, Ezra, <i>Cambridge</i> ,	2	1
Abbot, Samuel L., <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Adams, Mrs. Susan J.,	1	
Albany. Young Men's Association,		1
American B'd of Commissioners for Foreign missions,	1	1
American Peace Society,		1
American Philosophical Society,	2	
American Tract Society,		1
American Unitarian Association,	2	
Ames, Ellis, <i>Canton</i> ,	1	
Amory, Thomas C.,		1
Andover Theological Seminary,		1
Anonymous,	20	44
Appleton, John, <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Appleton, William S.,		1
Asta-Burnaga, Francisco Solano, <i>Chilian Minister</i> ,	1	
Atwood, Charles,	6	3
Babcock, Rev. Samuel B., <i>Dedham</i> ,		1
Baker, Nathaniel B., <i>Adjutant General of Iowa</i> ,	2	
Balfour, David M.,	2	1
Barlow, Francis C., <i>Secretary of State, N. Y.</i> ,	1	
Barnard, James M.,	3	2
Bartlett, Hon. John R., <i>Secretary of State, R. I.</i> ,	1	
Bates, Henry W.,	1	
Bates, Samuel P.,	1	
Belding, Keith & Co.,	1	
Bemis, George,	2	
Black, James, <i>Lancaster, Pa.</i> ,		1
Bodichon, B.,	2	1
Bogart, W. H., <i>Albany, N. Y.</i> ,	3	1
Bokum, Rev. Hermann, <i>Wash., D.C.</i> , 1 piece sheet music.		1
Boston. City of,	9	
——— Athenæum,		4
——— Board of Trade,	1	
——— City Hospital,	1	
——— Gas Light Company,	4	
——— Home for Aged Men,		1
——— Impartial Suffrage League,	2	
——— Mercantile Library Association,		1
——— Provident Association,		12
——— Society for Medical Improvement,	1	
——— Society of Natural History,	1	
Boutwell, Hon. George S.,	2	
Bradlee, Rev. Caleb Davis,	27	2

DONORS.	Vols.	Pam.
Brighton. Holton Library,	1	1
Brooks, <i>Rev.</i> Charles, <i>Medford</i> ,		3
Brown, Francis Henry, <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Brown, G. H.,		1
Brown, John Carter, <i>Providence, R. I.</i>	1	
Brown, Sam'l G., <i>Pres. of Hamilton Col., Clinton, N. Y.</i> ,	1	
Bullock, <i>His Excellency</i> Alexander H.,		1
Burnham, T. O. H. P.,	1	
Burrongs, <i>Rev.</i> Henry, <i>Jr.</i> ,	1	
Bush, <i>Rev.</i> Solon Wanton,		36
California. Academy of Natural Sciences,	1	
Cambridge. Harvard College,		1
Charlestown. Naval Library and Institute,		1
Cheever, David W., <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Chicago. Historical Society,	4	5
——— Young Men's Association,	1	2
Christern, F. W., <i>New York</i> ,	2	1
Clapp, <i>Hon.</i> William W ,	5	
Clarke, Edward H., <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Clarke, Henry, <i>Poultney, Vt.</i> ,		1
Coolidge, Joseph,	1	
Cornell, William M., <i>M. D.</i> ,		2
Cotting, Benjamin E., <i>Roxbury</i> ,		1
Cotting, <i>Miss</i> Charlotte C.,	1	
Creamer, David,	1	
Cutter, Charles A., <i>Cambridge</i> ,	1	1
Dalton, Edward B., <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Dana, Charles F.,	30	
Dana, Richard H., <i>Jr.</i> ,		1
Davis, <i>Rear Admiral</i> Charles H.,	3	
Dawson, Henry B., <i>Morrisania, N. Y.</i> ,	1	
Deane, Charles,		1
Delmar, Alexander, <i>Bureau of Statistics, U. S.</i> ,		3
Detroit. Young Men's Society,		1
Divoll, Ira, <i>St. Louis, Mo.</i> ,	1	2
Donnelly, J.,		3
Dorr, Eben Ritchie,	1	
Dorr, Frederic H.,		1
Duren, Elnathan, <i>Bangor, Me.</i> ,		1
Dutton, E. P., and Co.,	1	
Eagleswood. Military Academy,		1
Edinburgh. Royal Society,	2	
Eliot, <i>Hon.</i> Thomas D.,		1
Ellis, Charles M.,		1
Everett, William,	13	6829

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Forman, <i>Rev. J. G., Alton, Ill.</i> ,	1	
Foster, <i>William H., Andover</i> ,		1
Gannett, <i>Ezra S., D.D.</i> ,		17
Goldsmith, <i>Seth, Charlestown</i> ,	4	14
Gould, <i>Hon. John S.</i> ,		1
Gould and Lincoln,	2	
Gray, <i>Hon. William</i> , Newspaper cuttings, 16 maps.	415	15
Great Britain. Commissioners of Admiralty,	2	
————— Commissioners of Patents,	71	
————— Royal Observatory,	1	1
————— Secretary of State for War,	1	
Green, <i>Samuel A., M. D.</i> ,		14
Greene, <i>George Washington</i> ,		1
Greenough, <i>William W.</i> ,	13	133
Halifax, <i>N. S.</i> Free Library,		1
Halliwell, <i>James O., London</i> ,	2	
Harper and Brothers, <i>New York</i> ,		1
Hartford. Young Men's Institute,		1
Haynes, <i>Henry W.</i> ,		1
Hilgard, <i>J. E., U. S. Coast Survey Office</i> ,	1	4
Holton, <i>Isaac F., South Malden</i> ,	8	3
Hooper, <i>Hon. Samuel</i> ,	4	
Howard, <i>Maj. Gen. O. O.</i> ,		1
Huber, <i>John F., Lancaster, Pa.</i> ,	2	
Inglis, <i>James</i> ,	1	
Irvine, <i>William, Adjutant General, N. Y.</i> ,	1	
Jarvis, <i>Edward, M. D.</i> ,	4	25
Jenkins, <i>Thornton N., U. S. Bureau of Navigation</i> ,	2	
Keokuk. Library Association,	1	
Lane, <i>Frederick A., New York</i> ,	1	
Langworthy, <i>Rev. Isaac P.</i> ,		1
Lawrence, <i>Abbott</i> ,	1 map.	16 70
Leigh, <i>Dr. Edwin</i> ,		2
Leonard, <i>Joseph</i> ,	3	
Lewis. Winslow, <i>M. D.</i> ,	5	
Lincoln, <i>Hon. Frederic W., Jr.</i> ,	1	
Lincoln, <i>Henry W.</i> ,	1	
Lissovski, <i>Admiral, of Russia</i> ,	13	
Littell and Gay,		2
London. British Museum,	9	4
————— Corporation of,	1	1

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London. Institution of Civil Engineers,	6	
———— Royal Astronomical Society,	1	1
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———— Royal Society,		1
Long Island College Hospital,		1
Long Island Historical Society,	1	2
Loring, <i>Hon.</i> Charles G.,	1	
Loring, Joseph S.,		4
Lousada, <i>Marquis</i> ,	1	
Lowell, Mr.,	2	
Lowell. City of,	1	
———— City Library,		1
Lunt, <i>Hon.</i> George,		1
MacCarthy, Denis Florence, <i>Dublin</i> ,	1	
McCleary, Samuel F.,		1
McCulloch, <i>Hon.</i> Hugh, <i>Sec. Treas., U. S.</i> ,	1	
McDougall. <i>Hon.</i> William, <i>Ottawa, Canada</i> ,	7	1
Mackie, William B., <i>M. D.</i> ,	11	
Maine. Adjutant General,	8	
Manchester, <i>Eng.</i> Free Library,	1	1
Marvin, Selden E., <i>Adjutant General of N. Y.</i> ,	2	
Maryland Historical Society,		1
Mason, <i>Mrs.</i> A. B.,	1	
Massachusetts. State of,	1	
———— State Library,	1	
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy,		1
Massachusetts Horticultural Society,	2	3
May, <i>Miss</i> Abby W.,	1	10
Meigs, <i>Gen.</i> Montgomery C., <i>Quartermaster Gen. U.S.A.</i> ,	4	2
Metcalf, <i>Hon.</i> Theron,		4
Milan (Municipality of),	7	7
———— Reale Istituto Lombardo,	19	7
Miles, C. Edwin, <i>M. D.</i> , <i>Roxbury</i> ,		6
Minnesota Historical Society,	1	
Minot, Francis, <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Minot, William,	1	
Moore, Charles W.,	1	
Morgan, Henry J., <i>Canada</i> ,	1	
Munsell, Joel, <i>Albany</i> ,		43
Napoleon III, <i>Emperor of the French</i> ,	2	
National Association of Wool Manufacturers,	1	
New Bedford. Free Public Library,		2
New England Historic-Genealogical Society,		1
New England Loyal Publication Society, 10 broadsides.		1
New Haven. Yale College,		2

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New York. Astor Library,	1	
———— Chamber of Commerce,	1	
———— College of Veterinary Surgeons,		1
———— Loyal Publication Society,	1	
———— Mercantile Library Association,		1
———— University, Convocation of,	2	
Newburyport. Public Library,	1	
Nicholson, Rev. Henry D.,	1	
Nicolson, Samuel,	1	
Odiorne, James C.,	1	
Ohio Mechanics' Institute,		1
Onderdonk, Henry, Jr., <i>Jamaica, L. I.</i> ,	2	2
Otis, Miss Mary,	4	
Parker, Henry Tuke, <i>London</i> ,	19	2
Parkhurst, Henry M.,	1	
Peabody, Rev. Andrew P.,		1
Peirce, Prof. Benj., <i>Supt. Coast Survey, U. S. A.</i> , 1 map.		
Pennsylvania. Alleghany College,		1
Perkins, Benjamin,		1
Perry, Rev. William Stevens,	1	4
Philadelphia. Board of Health,		1
———— Library Company,		2
———— Loganian Library,		1
Philbrick, John D.,	1	
Pickering, J. Frank,	3	
Pim, Bedford, <i>Commander R. N.</i> ,	1	
Pittsburg. Young Men's Mercantile Library Association,		1
Powers, Thomas H., <i>Philadelphia</i> ,	2	
Pratt, Rev. J. B., <i>L.L. D., Cruden, Aberdeenshire</i> ,		1
Providence. City of,	1	
———— Butler Hospital for the Insane,		1
Punchard, Rev. George,	34	25
Quincy, Family of the late Hon. Josiah,	128	
Rangabé, <i>His Excellency, A. R.</i>	4	1
Rankin, Rev. Jeremiah E., <i>Charlestown</i> ,		1
Read, John Meredith, Jr.,	1	
Read, William, <i>M. D.</i> ,		3
Reiff, J. C.,		1
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,		1
Rhode Island M. W. Grand Lodge,		1
Rice, Hon. Alexander H., 3 maps.	21	
Richardson, James B.,	2	
Rimmel, Julius, <i>London</i> ,	1	
Rogers, John K., <i>Treas. Boston Type Foundry</i> ,	1	

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Salter, Richard H., <i>M. D.</i> , San Francisco. Mercantile Library Association,	47	1
————— Odd Fellows' Library,		1
Seidensticker, James G., <i>Chicago, Ill.</i> ,		5
Shaw, Benjamin S., <i>M. D.</i> ,	2	87
Sibley, John Langdon, <i>Librarian of Harvard University</i> ,		1
Smith, Charles C.,		1
Smith, Samuel, <i>Worcester</i> ,	1	
Snow, Edwin M., <i>Providence, R. I.</i>		3
Soule, Richard, and Wheeler, W. A.,	1	
South Danvers. Peabody Institute,		1
Späth, Julius,	3	
Spofford, A. R., <i>Librarian of Congress</i> ,	2	2
Springfield. City Library Association,		1
Squier, <i>Hon.</i> E. George, <i>New York</i> ,	1	
Stevenson, <i>Hon.</i> J. Thomas,	1	
Story, Joseph,	4	
Sturgis, <i>Miss</i> ,	2	
Sturgis, F. R., <i>M. D.</i> ,		1
Sumner, <i>Hon.</i> Charles,	52	60
Sutton, <i>Hon.</i> J. Mannors, <i>Gov. of Trinidad</i> ,	1	
Talbot, I. Tisdale, <i>M. D.</i> ,	1	
Taunton. Public Library,	2	
Thayer, Alexander Wheelock,	1	
Ticknor, George,	20	26
Torrance, <i>Prof.</i> F. W., <i>Montreal</i> ,	3	
Townsend, Solomon D., <i>M. D.</i> ,	14	36
Troy. Young Mens' Association,	1	
Trübner and Co., <i>London</i> ,		1
Turner, Alfred,	1	
Tuttle, Charles W.,	1	
United States. Bureau of Statistics,		2
————— Coast Survey Office,	1	
————— Department of the Interior,	63	
————— Department of State,	8	
————— Naval Observatory,	2	
————— Sanitary Commission,	3	
Upton, George B.,		1
Venice. Istituto Veneto,	1	5
Vienna. K. K. Geologische Reichsanstalt,	1	
Walley, <i>Hon.</i> Samuel H.,		19
Waltham. Public Library,		1
Warner, Hermann J.,	59	2
Warren, <i>Hon.</i> Charles H.,	1	
Warren, J. Mason, <i>M. D.</i> ,		1

DONORS,	Vols.	Pam.
Warren, Josiah, 14 newspapers.		
Washington, <i>Hon.</i> Peter G.,		1
Washington. Smithsonian Institution,	3	1
Waterston, <i>Rev.</i> Robert C.,	1	
Welles, Edgar T., <i>Clerk, Navy Department, U. S.,</i>	1	
Welles, <i>Hon.</i> Gideon, <i>Secretary of the Navy, U. S.,</i>	1	
Wells, <i>Hon.</i> Chandler J.,		2
Whitmore, William H.,	6	2
Whitney, <i>Rev.</i> Frederic A., <i>Brighton,</i>	1	1
Whitney, Henry Austin,	1	
Wilder, Burt G., <i>S. B. M. D.,</i>		1
Wilder, <i>Hon.</i> Marshall P.,		15
Williams and Norgate, <i>London,</i>		3
Willis, Nathaniel,	3	
Wilson, <i>Hon.</i> Henry,	47	2
Wines, <i>Rev.</i> E. C.,	1	
Winthrop, <i>Hon.</i> Robert C.,	1	
Wisconsin. Institution for the Education of the Blind,		1
Wood, F. A., <i>New York,</i>		1
Wood, <i>Rev.</i> Horatio, <i>Lowell,</i>		2
Worcester. American Antiquarian Society,	1	
——— Free Public Library,		1
Worthington and Flanders,	2	
Wright, J. J.,		1
Young, <i>His Honor, Chief Justice, W., Halifax, N. S.,</i>		2



## PERIODICALS.

*Complete Files for the Year from the Publishers.*

Advocate of Peace.

American Baptist Missionary Union. Missionary Magazine.

American Unitarian Association. Monthly Magazine.

Boston Daily Evening Traveller.

Boston Musical Times.

Bostoner Intelligenz-Blatt.

Commonwealth.

Freemason's Monthly Magazine.

Hall's Journal of Health.

London. Royal Astronomical Society. Monthly Notices.

——— Royal Geographical Society. Proceedings.

Masonic Monthly.

Nation, The, New York.

New England Farmer.

Philadelphia. Entomological Society. Proceedings.

Radical.

Salem. Essex Institute. Proceedings.

Saturday Express.

Student and Schoolmate.

Sunday Times.

Trübner's American and Oriental Literary Record.

Weekly Standard, Buenos Ayres.

[BB]

TABLE I.

VOLUMES IN THE LIBRARY.						YEARLY INCREASE.					
Years.	Whole Number.	Pamphlets.	Bates Hall.	Lower Hall.	Sale Dis- patches & odd vols.	Net Increase.	Donations.		Purchases.		
	Volumes.	Pamphlets.				Volumes.	Pamphlets.	Volumes.	Pamphlets.	Volumes.	Pamphlets.
1851-52 .	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1852-53 .	9,688	961	.....	.....	..	9,688	961	4,000	961	5,688	..
1853-54 .	16,221	3,950	.....	.....	..	6,533	2,989	2,152	2,989	4,381	..
1854-55 .	22,617	6,507	.....	.....	..	6,386	2,557	2,663	2,468	3,733	89
1855-56 .	28,080	12,386	.....	.....	..	5,463	5,879	1,865	5,330	3,598	549
1856-57 .	34,806	16,053	.....	.....	..	6,816	3,667	1,686	3,646	5,130	21
1857-58 .	70,851	17,938	.....	.....	..	35,955	1,885	30,214	1,885	5,741	..
1858-59 .	78,043	19,255	60,420	15,819	1,804	7,192	1,317	3,405	1,317	3,787	..
1859-60 .	85,652	20,707	66,228	17,000	1,804	6,089	1,452	3,744	1,452	3,245	..
1860-61 .	97,386	27,381	75,217	19,161	3,008	16,948	6,674	12,299	6,636	4,649	18
1861-62 .	105,054	28,874	84,153	20,881	4,794	7,301	1,493	1,274	1,493	6,117	..
1862-63 .	119,563	31,043	88,038	22,525	5,297	5,529	2,169	829	1,958	4,700	212
1863-64 .	116,984	31,837	93,342	23,692	5,116	6,226	2,939	1,081	2,772	5,145	167
1864-65 .	123,016	32,553	98,156	24,800	4,984	6,082	1,516	804	1,026	5,178	490
1865-66 .	130,678	36,566	105,312	25,366	4,665	7,662	4,013	1,476	3,342	6,286	671
1866-67 .	135,981	44,443	110,782	25,199	5,362	5,303	7,877	1,465	7,769	7,792	108

NOTE. — To account for discrepancies noticeable in the above table, compiled from the Annual Reports, it should be stated that, prior to the Report of 1861, the annual statement of the whole number of volumes was obtained by adding the accessions of the year to the previous aggregates; and although the numbers in both Halls are now obtained by actually counting the books upon the shelf-lists, there still remain several sources of unavoidable discrepancies, such as the following: Works reported at first as containing a certain number of volumes, afterwards for good reasons bound in a different number; works reported as duplicates subsequently exchanged for works in a different number of volumes; pamphlets bound separately and counted as books; also volumes lost or worn out, but for some reason not replaced, which disappear in the aggregates, but remain as originally reported among the accessions.

TABLE II.

YEAR.	SIGNATURES.	CIRCULATION.					
		Whole No. Lent.	Daily Average.	Largest No. in one day.	Date.	Lent in Bates Hall.	Used in Bates Hall.
1854..	6,590	17,066	35,389	250	535	Sep. 16	.....
1855..	3,905		81,281	284	606	Feb. 10	.....
1856..	2,361		82,661	291	647	Feb. 23	.....
1857..	2,236		89,423	310	730	Jan. 24	.....
1858..	1,974		75,570	383	693	Feb. 27	.....
1859..	13,329	52,859	149,468	588.5	1,335	Mar. 5	.....
1860..	4,809		151,020	508.5	1,052	Feb. 4	.....
1861..	4,522		160,877	587.1	1,303	Feb. 23	.....
1862..	4,326		180,302	626	1,517	Mar. 1	7,400 10,263
1863..	3,495		138,027	643.56	1,534	Feb. 7	5,222 7,124
1864..	4,758		184,035	664.34	1,424	Feb. 27	7,468 11,057
1865..	5,324		194,627	707.73	1,464	Nov. 19.	10,371 13,090
1865-6	5,036	17,066	193,862	732	1,589	Feb. 10	9,763 10,438
1866-7	6,990		208,963	754	1,813	Feb. 23	13,696 11,553

[CC]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

EXPENDITURES,

*From October 1, 1866, to September 30, 1867.*

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Binding . . . . .	\$3,807 03
Books . . . . .	11,222 21
Catalogues . . . . .	3,351 66
Expense . . . . .	1,716 26
Fuel . . . . .	2,608 72
Furniture . . . . .	594 61
Gas . . . . .	1,808 37
Periodicals . . . . .	1,850 35
Printing . . . . .	1,879 53
Salaries . . . . .	21,239 57
Stationery . . . . .	1,702 17
Transportation . . . . .	878 24
	<hr/>
	\$52,658 72



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